

- Fred Thys, WBUR Radio (NPR Boston)
- Moon Griffon Show (LA radio)
- Leo Shane of Military Times (print)
- Pensacola's Morning News (FL radio)
- WWL Radio (New Orleans, LA radio)
- The Drive with Lee Matthews (Oklahoma City, OK radio)
- Kevin Miller in the Morning (Boise, ID radio)
- The Marc Cox morning Show (St Louis, MO radio)
- Larry O'Connor, WMAL (DC/CA radio)
- KOAN Radio (Anchorage, AK)
- Montana Talks Radio.
- COX Media w/ Samantha Manning
- The Ross Kaminsky Show (CO radio)
- Lisa Rein, The Washington Post
- The Conservative Circus (Phoenix radio)
- The Bob Rose Show (FL radio)
- Charlie James Show (SC radio)
- Mobile Mornings (AL radio)
- The Mark Sterling Show (NC radio)
- Fox Across America (Fox News Radio)
- Richmond's Morning News (VA radio)
- Ringside Politics (LA radio/tv)
- The Erick Erickson Show (GA radio)
- The Sam Malone Show (Houston, TX Radio)
- The Dale Jackson Show (Huntsville, AL Radio)
- AM Tampa Bay Radio
- The John Fredericks Radio Show
- The Matt and Aunie Show (AL radio)
- The Schilling Show (VA radio)
- The Annie Frey Show (St. Louis radio)
- The Wilkow Majority on Sirius XM radio
- Bernie and Sid in the Morning (NYC radio)
- Tom Jordan and Roberta Jasina (Detroit radio)
- The Frank Beckmann Show (Detroit radio)
- The Heidi Harris Show (Las Vegas radio)
- The Steve Gruber Show (Lansing/Flint, MI radio)
- Morning Talk with Martha Zoller (Atlanta, GA radio)
- The Brian Kilmeade Show (Fox News Radio)
- The David Webb Show (SiriusXM radio)
- The Todd Starnes Show (Fox News Radio)
- Joe Piscopo in the Morning (NYC Radio)
- South Florida's First News with Jimmy Cefalo (Miami/Ft. Lauderdale Radio)
- The Bill Spadea Show (NJ Radio)
- The Kuhner Report (Boston Radio)
- Mornings with Brian Haldane (Baton Rouge, LA Radio)
- Pat Kime of Military.com.
- Ben Kesling of The Wall Street Journal
- The Joyce Kaufman Show (South Florida radio)

- Quil Lawrence of NPR
- MSNBC Live with Stephanie Ruhle
- WTKR TV Norfolk, VA
- KSWB TV San Diego
- WCAU-TV Philadelphia
- WGN-TV National
- WFAA-TV Dallas
- Midday News with James MacKay (Boston Radio)
- JJ Green of WTOP (DC Radio)
- Liz MacDonald on Fox Business
- Martha MacCallum of Fox News
- AM Tampa Bay radio
- Lars Larson (radio)
- The Fayetteville Observer
- Prairie Public Radio (Fargo, ND)
- KTTH Seattle (radio)
- The Birmingham Fox Affiliate (local Birmingham, AL tv)
- Shannon Bream
- Nebraska Public Radio
- WTOP Radio (DC)
- Think Show, Dallas NPR
- WESA FM Radio (Pittsburgh, PA).
- KBST Radio (Big Spring, TX).
- KOKI-TV Tulsa, OK.
- WCIV-TV Charleston, SC.
- KALB-TV Alexandria, LA.
- KSNV-TV Las Vegas, NV.
- Fox and Friends First this morning.
- WLBT-TV Jackson, MS.
- KPBS-TV San Diego, CA.
- WGN Radio.
- Newsmax.
- Fox News Radio
- America's HQ on Fox News <https://video.foxnews.com/v/6158768721001#sp=show-clips>
- Ed Henry on Fox News
- ABC News' Martha Raddatz
- CBS Evening News' Jan Crawford
- WJLA TV (DC ABC)
- KDVR TV (Denver FOX).
- WABC TV (NYC ABC).
- KELO-TV (Sioux Falls, SD CBS)

● **VA Has Issued the Following News Releases**

- VA extends financial, benefits and claims relief to Veterans  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5412>
- Secretary Wilkie thanked Wounded Warrior Project for \$10 million commitment to aid Veterans  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5421>



- VA, Facebook and American Red Cross provide Portal video calling devices to Veterans, caregivers, and families <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5422>
- VA Tele-mental health visits on the rise amid COVID-19 <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5418>
- VA Mobilizes 3D Printing Resources nationwide to fight COVID-19 <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5419>
- VA Announces, “Fourth Mission” Actions to Help American Respond to COVID-19 <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5420>
- VA Partners with IRS/Dept. of Treasury to Deliver Economic Impact Payments <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5423>
- VA’s telehealth system grows as Veterans have access to unlimited data while using VA Video Connect <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5426>
- VA, DoD implement new capability for bidirectional sharing of health records with community partners <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5425>
- VA acquires Texas community hospital to fight COVID-19 and care for Veterans in the future <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5424>
- Timeline on how VA prepared for COVID-19 outbreak and continues to keep Veterans safe <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5427>
- VA researchers to study COVID-19 in aging Veterans with dementia <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5428>
- VA health app now available to Veterans across all mobile and web platforms <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5430>
- VA hiring jumps 37% in response to COVID-19 <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5429>
- Joint Statement from DHS and VA on Continued Collaboration Throughout COVID-19 Pandemic <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5431>
- VA establishes the department’s first history office <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5432>
- VA joins XPRIZE Pandemic Alliance to combat COVID-19 and future outbreaks <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5433>
- VA Trust in Veteran Health Care Rises above 90% for the first time <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5435>
- VA expands access to virtual hearings <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5436>
- VA names Brooks Tucker Acting Chief of Staff <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5437>
- VA participating in drug, plasma trials in fight against COVID-19 <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5438>
- VA is protecting and Serving All of America <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5439>
- VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry reaches a major milestone <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5441>
- VA Enhances National COVID-19 Reporting Summary Tool <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5440>
- VA Gets Boost from CARES Act to provide emergency assistance to Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness during COVID-19 crisis. <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5442>

- Process for Charting the Course - Agency Plan on Returning to Pre-COVID-19 Operations <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5443>
- Post-COVID-19 Operations Plan to VA Leaders and Staff. <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5443>
- VA and Parkinson's Foundation partner to help Veterans Living with Parkinson's disease <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5444>
- VA Kicks off Mental Health Campaign emphasizing mental health support <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5445>
- VA and Parkinson's Foundation partner to help Veterans Living with Parkinson's disease <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5444>
- VA Kicks off Mental Health Campaign emphasizing mental health support <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5445>
- CARES Act helping VA boost protections for Veterans <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5415>
- VA appeals production at all time high <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5414>
- VA's Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System provides surge-support to combat COVID-19 <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5417>
- VA accepts Mask Donation from South Korea to Assist with COVID-19 efforts, longtime partner and ally sends 500,000 masks <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5447>
- VA Releases New COVID Coach Mobile App <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5448>
- VA National Cemeteries to Commemorate Memorial Day <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5450>
- VA reports rising patient capacity, stable supplies and staffing 8 weeks into COVID Emergency <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5449>
- VA, multiple agencies launch joint Mortgage and Housing Assistance Website for Americans Impacted by COVID-19 <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5451>
- VA Encourages Donations to help homeless veterans or those at risk of homelessness during COVID-19 <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5453>
- VA lead facilities reintroduce health care services while ensuring a safe environment <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5454>
- Secretary Wilkie Memorial Day Message 2020 <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5455>
- Gary Sinise Foundation Donates Meals to VA Hospital Staff During COVID-19 <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5456>
- VA Conducts Deep Dive Study into effects of COVID-19 on Veterans <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5457>
- VA Resume Compensation and Pension Exams at select locations <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5458>
- White House Order to End union subsidies expands clinical space for Veterans, nets \$1.4 billion for taxpayers <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5459>
- VA to Begin Legal Process of replacing three German POW Headstone <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5460>
- VA, Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation Deliver Cancer Care to Veterans Via Technology

<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5461>

- VA Names New National Cemetery in Wyoming

<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5462>

- **The Secretary of Veterans Affairs made calls to the following Governors to discuss State Veteran Home support and other COVID-19 issues:**

- Maine – Janet Mills
- Oregon – Kate Brown
- Alabama – Kay Ivey
- New Hampshire – Chris Sununu
- New Jersey – Phil Murphy
- South Carolina – Henry McMaster
- Oklahoma – Kevin Stitt
- Georgia – Brian Kemp
- South Dakota – Kristi Noem
- Tennessee – Bill Lee
- Arkansas – Asa Hutchinson
- Ohio – Mike Dewine
- Iowa – Kim Reynolds
- Kansas – Laura Kelly
- Florida Governor Ron DeSantis
- Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy
- Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo
- Idaho Governor Brad Little
- Maryland Governor Larry Hogan
- New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy (5/20/2020)
- Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker (5/21/2020)

- **VA leadership has participated in the following Congressional Engagements**

- Secretary Wilkie hosted weekly phone calls with Chairman Jerry Moran and Ranking Member Jon Tester of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.
- Secretary Wilkie hosted weekly phone calls with Chairman Mark Takano and Ranking Member Phil Roe of the House Veterans Affairs Committee.
- VA facilitated a briefing to Senate and House Authorizing committee staffers on VA's Emergency Management Disaster Plan for COVID-19.
- Sent daily detailed updates to both House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees.
- Sent 541 letters to Members of Congress and Committees clarifying the process for requests from states and localities for VA to activate it's 4<sup>th</sup> MISSION.
- VHA Executive in Charge, and the Assistant Secretary from Management briefed HVAC Chairman Takano on the \$19.6 Billion received in the supplemental funding bill (3/30/2020).
- Secretary Wilkie briefed Sen. Boozman on Appropriations related issues. (4/2/2020)
- The VA Chief Acquisition Officer briefed House Veterans Affairs Minority Staff on procurement, supply chain, etc. (4/6/2020)

- VA Chief Financial Officers briefed the House and Senate Appropriations staffers (4 Corners) on VHA's Supplemental Funding distribution plan for the Families First and CARES Acts. (4/7/2020)
- Human Resources and Administration office briefed House Veterans Affairs and Senate Veteran's Affairs Committee staff on workforce challenges during COVID-19. The briefing covered 1) what VA is doing to recruit/hire nurses and staff; 2) how VA is keeping staff safe; 3) how VA is incorporating feedback from union leaders and safety officers during this COVID-19 response. (4/8/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie conducted update calls on VA's response to COVID with House Appropriations MilConVA Subcommittee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman-Shultz, House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jerry Moran. (4/9/2020)
- The Executive in Charge, VHA had a phone briefing with HVAC Chairman Mark Takano on VA response to COVID-19. (4/13/2020)
- Acting Deputy Secretary Powers held separate conference calls with Sen Moran (SVAC Chair), Sen Bozeman (SAC-VA), CM Takano (HVAC Chair), and CM Roe (HVAC Ranking); discussed COVID response. (4/15/2020)
- The Chief Information Officer Jim Gferer held a call with House and Senate MilConVA Subcommittee staff. (4/16/2020)
- ADEPSEC Powers had a call with Senator Brian Schatz (Hawaii), Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee MilConVA. (4/20/2020)
- Veteran's Health Administration CFO and VA budget staff briefed House and Senate Appropriations staffers on VHA's CARES Act Supplemental Funding supporting the VA Homelessness Program. (4/22/2020)
- Veterans Health Administration and Office of Information and Technology subject matter experts briefed House and Senate Appropriations staff on the use and expansion of Telehealth capabilities in response to COVID-19. (4/25/2020)
- The VHA Chief Financial Officer briefed House and Senate Appropriations staff on the \$150 million for State Home Construction Grants and \$606 million for Medical Facilities including Non-Recurring Maintenance, as well as, the provision that allows VHA to provide PPE to State Homes in response to COVID-19. (4/27/2020)
- VHA subject matter experts held a call with the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Staff to brief them on VA's support for State Veteran Homes. (4/29/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie held a phone call with West Virginia Senators Manchin and Shelly Capito Moore. (4/30/2020)
- Leaderships from the Office of Logistics and Constructions and VHA Procurement Office briefed House Veterans Affairs minority staff on supply chain efforts. (5/1/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie had a phone call with HAC MilConVA Subcommittee Chair Debbie Wasserman Schulz. to update on COVID and formally decline the Subcommittee's invite for a May hearing. (5/6/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie had a phone call with Sen. Jack Reed on PPE request for state of Rhode Island. (5/8/2020)
- Acting Deputy Secretary Powers had a call with Sen. Hassan to discuss the partnership with New Hampshire regarding a PPE shipment. (5/8/2020)
- The Executive in Charge, VHA briefed House Veterans Affairs, Senate Veterans Affairs and Appropriation Committee staff members on COVID-19 response.
- Executive in Charge, VHA held a call with members of the House Appropriations Committee.

- VBA Executives briefed staff from SVAC (Majority and Minority) and HVAC (Majority and Minority) on COVID-19 efforts as well as updates on Compensation and Pension contract exams, disability benefits questionnaires, claims processing and appeals. (5/8/2020)
- Assistant Secretary of OIT, Jim Gfrerer briefed Representatives Lee and Levin on technological implications of COVID-19 on the GI Bill. (5/8/2020)
- Leadership from Office of Logistics and Construction leadership briefed the Minority Staff for SVAC on supply chain issues related to VA's 4<sup>th</sup> Mission. (5/8/2020)
- SECVA hosted weekly phone call with SVAC Chairman Jerry Moran and Ranking Member Jon Tester (5/13/2020)
- A DEPSEC had a call with Ambassador John Hennessey-Niland, Republic of Palau (5/15/2020)
- Veterans Benefit Administration executives provided a briefing to Four Corners regarding updates on VBA's three-phased approach for returning to pre-COVID operations especially for VA regional offices and pension management centers, and the need for any additional funding around overtime and IT. (5/15/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie hosted a phone call with Alaska Senator Dan Sullivan
- Sec. Wilkie hosted his weekly update call with SVAC Chairman Jerry Moran and Ranking Member Jon Tester
- Veterans Benefit Administration executives provided a briefing to House Veterans Affairs and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Staff regarding updates on VBA's three-phased approach for returning to pre-COVID operations, the need for any additional funding around overtime and IT and pending examinations. (5/22/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie hosted a phone call with HAC MilCon Chair Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (5/27/2020)
- SECVA and VA leaders testified this morning in front of the HAC MilCon VA Subcommittee on VA's response to COVID-19 (5/28/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie and VA leaders testified in front of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on the VA Budget and VA's Response to COVID-19

#### **Other Key Engagements with VA Stakeholders**

- Secretary Wilkie joined President Trump on a stakeholder call with leaders of Veterans Service organizations to update them on the government wide response to COVID-19. (3/21/20)
- Under Secretary for Benefits and the Executive in Charge for VHA briefed Rep. Takano, Rep. Roe, Sen. Tester and Sen. Moran on COVID-19 Responses for Health and Benefits. (4/2/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie briefed the FEMA Task Force. Informed them that VA was prepared to open 1500 beds across our system to help relieve the pressure on states and localities. Each Veterans Affairs network has put in place contingency plans to expand the number of beds available, first for veterans and then our fellow citizens. (4/3/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie participated in a conference call on mental health services with the President, First Lady, the Vice President, Second Lady and HHS Sec. Alex Azar. (4/9/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie joined White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Doug Hoelscher for a briefing on VA and White House response to COVID-19. Over 200 State and Local Leaders joined the call. (4/14/2020)
- The Secretary hosted weekly phone calls with VSO leaders to provide them with an update on VA's response to the COVID 19 Pandemic.
- Secretary Wilkie and his leadership team hosted a call with State and Local Government Stakeholders to provide them an update on VA's response to COVID-19.
- Secretary visited the Washington DC hospital to thank staff and visit veterans. (4/21/2020)



- Secretary Wilkie hosted a teleconference with the Baltimore Veteran Treatment Court staff to include their Public Defender, District Attorney, veteran mentors and student attorneys. (4/22/2020)
- The Under Secretary for Benefits hosted multiple tele-townhalls for Veterans which, focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates.
- Under Secretary of Memorial Affairs Randy Reeves hosted a phone call with State Leaders to discuss issues regarding our National Cemeteries during COVID-19. (4/21/2020)
- VA Office of Intergovernmental Affairs reached out to 250 State Leaders to discuss topics such as support for states, updates or support on State Veterans homes, etc. (4/23/2020)
- VA Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and SMEs from VA's office of mental health held a briefing call with State and Local leaders including State Veterans Affairs Directors, County Veterans Service Officers, etc. on VA's efforts to serve Veterans with mental health issues during COVID-19. (4/28/2020)
- Plane load of Chinese-made PPE arrived in New Hampshire. ADEPSEC Powers traveled to NH to meet the plane with Governor Sununu and provided remarks at the event. VA worked an agreement with the State of New Hampshire via Governor Chris Sununu to procure a large amount of the supplies. (4/30/2020)
- SECVA hosted a weekly VSO update call to update our VSO stakeholders on our response to COVID-19 (5/13/2020)
- Under Secretary for Benefits Paul Lawrence hosted a Tele-Townhall for Veterans in Iowa on Tuesday, May 12, focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates, reaching 34,247 participants. (5/13/2020)
- Acting Deputy Secretary Pamela Powers visited the Richmond VA Medical Center in Virginia to meet with hospital leadership and thank them for their work during the response to COVID-19 (5/19/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie hosted his weekly update call with Veteran Service Organizations to brief them on VA's ongoing efforts regarding COVID-19 (5/20/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie joined the President for the Rolling to Remember Event at the White House (5/22/2020)
- Under Secretary for Benefits hosted a Tele-Townhall for Veterans in Virginia focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates, reaching 59,164 participants. (5/22/2020)
- Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Randy Reeves appeared on Fox News to discuss protocol at VA Cemeteries during Memorial Day  
<https://www.foxnews.com/media/va-undersecretary-addresses-flag-controversy-for-2020-memorial-day>
- Sec. Wilkie (Quantico National Cemetery), DEPSEC Powers (Culpepper VA National Cemetery) and USMA (Calverton National Cemetery) gave keynote remarks at small ceremonies for Memorial Day (5/25/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie hosted his weekly tele-conference with Veterans Service Organizations to update them on VA's COVID-19 response and other matters (5/27/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie and USB Paul Lawrence hosted a town hall for North Carolina Veterans (5/27/2020)
- Under Secretary for Benefits Paul Lawrence hosted a Tele-Townhall for Veterans in South Carolina focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates, reaching 48,414 participants. (6/1/2020)

#### **Miscellaneous Communications from VA**

- VAntage blog published January 31st and continually updated since:  
<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/70999/cdc-coronavirus-information-and-resources/>
- VetResources emails, providing Coronavirus information and prevention guidance, were sent to 10.8 million subscribers. (2/5 and 2/26)
- Implemented VEText outreach to 8,858,481 Veterans to receive COVID-19 information and updates via text. (3/17/2020)
- Partnered with Facebook and the American Red Cross Military Veteran Caregiver Network to support Veterans and their families/caregivers in their homes through use of 7,488 free Facebook Portal devices.
- Conducted a “Lunch and Learn” a virtual online meeting to provide Veteran Service Organizations and community partners access to VA resources including COVID-19 response resources.
- Published VETResources to a total of 10.7M Veterans via email. (3/25/20).
- Secretary Wilkie sent a message to all VA employees expressing appreciation for their support during the COVID-19 pandemic, assuring them that their health and safety and that of VA’s patients is critical, and offering resources to promote employee wellness. (3/17/2020)
- Deployed VEText based messages to Veterans that have a mobile phone number registered with VA (3/30/2020);
  - The texts reach approximately 7.1 million Veterans.
  - The message: “Dept of Veterans Affairs COVID-19 update: Stay home, stay safe, stay connected. VA has online tools for appointments, prescriptions, and more.  
<https://go.usa.gov/xdJkp>
- Developed a COVID-19 quick start guide (QSG) to be posted as part of the VA welcome kit and broadly distributed to Veterans. This distribution includes:
  - All MOU partners (corporate partners), Veteran Service Organizations (VSO), posted on social media pages (Twitter, Facebook, etc.), VA Program Offices for sharing across their partner networks, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA). (3/30/2020)
- Published public blog with guidance for Veterans/Caregivers seeking access to DoD facilities.
- Conducted a “Lunch and Learn” virtual online meeting to provide Veteran Service Organizations and community partners information on VA Mental Health resources and highlight the Cohen Veterans Network (CVN) mental health initiatives <http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/veocvebllcohen/>
- The COVID Quick Start Guide (QSG) was posted at <https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit/> (4/7/2020)
- Initiated an advertising campaign for VHA recruiting. (4/7/2020)
- #LiveWholeHealth-Self Care Resources campaign for Veterans during Coronavirus crisis launched.
- PREVENTS reached out to Vets during the COVID crisis, releasing informational videos and concrete steps that Veterans and their families can take to care for their emotional well-being under the tag #MoreThanEverBefore and with the help of lead PREVENTS Ambassador Second Lady Karen Pence. (4/8/2020)
- <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/73363/live-whole-health-self-care-episode-1/>
- Sent a Mental-health focused VEText message to be distributed to 9 million Veterans (4/10/2020)
- Published *Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Financial Relief Actions and Time Limit Extensions* to VBA’s Fact Sheets site. (4/10/2020)
- Published *VBA COVID-19 FAQs* to help address routine and non-urgent questions. (4/10/2020)
- Delivered VETResources digital newsletter to 10.7 Million Veterans. (4/16/2020)
- VA launched a new website on VA’s external blog <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/roll-of-honor/> called the “Roll of Honor”. This new webpage page came about as a result of not being able to provide committal services due to the COVID-19 crisis. The site provides an opportunity to

remember those Veterans interred during this crisis and reflects interments in our cemeteries. Each day, NCA will add the names; branch of service and location of burial for each Veteran interred in a national cemetery on the previous day. (4/16/2020)

- VA's My HealtheVet team is hosting a webinar for Veterans about how to access VA telehealth services, in coordination with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. (4/17/2020)
- VA sent a text message via VETtext to 8.2M Veterans. Content is focused on financial hardship, and specifically action certain Veterans must take to claim an additional \$500 per dependent in stimulus funds. (5/1/2020)
- VBA published the Transition Talk series to VBA's Transition and Economic Development website. Several video segments were posted that addressed our response to COVID-19 and VBA Program updates. (5/12/2020)
- Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits, Margarita Devlin, participated in a virtual event sponsored by the Association of Defense Communities and Blue Star Families.
- VA published the following video that discussed TAP procedures during COVID-19, including information on how to access web-based VA Benefits and Services courses and Military Life Cycle: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3agzM86sBk>
- Secretary Wilkie visited the Baltimore, Maryland VA Medical Center to thank employees for their life saving and important work during the Pandemic. (5/18/2020)
- Under Secretary for Benefits, Paul Lawrence hosted a Tele-Townhall for Veterans in Oklahoma on focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates, reaching 27,705 participants. (5/18/2020)
- PDUSB Margarita Devlin was the keynote speaker for Day 1 of VA Healthcare Online Summit. (5/19/2020)
- USB Paul Lawrence hosted a Tele-Townhall for Veterans in Kentucky focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates, reaching 21,434 participants. (5/19/2020)
- VA shared our Transition Talk/Transition Assistance Program video segment through various social media channels and communication platforms. This segment of Military to Civilian Transition Talk discussed the cancellation of TAP events due to COVID-19 and the availability of online courses and where to access them. All Transition Talk episodes are located at <https://benefits.va.gov/transition/coronavirus.asp>
- Published Circular 26-20-19, *Additional Lender Guidance Concerning COVID-19*, to provide supplemental information regarding current VA policies and to provide further guidance to assist in the processing of VA-guaranteed loans during the National Emergency. The circular is located at [https://www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/documents/circulars/26\\_20\\_19.pdf](https://www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/documents/circulars/26_20_19.pdf).
- Board of Veterans Appeals Chairman Cheryl Mason participated in an interview with Government Matters to discuss BVA's response to COVID-19 (5/22/2020)
- VBA posted information to its social media platforms concerning VA benefits debts. If a Veteran or beneficiary are financially unable to pay their debt(s) due to the COVID-19 crisis, they can call or submit their request online at <https://iris.custhelp.va.gov/app/ask/>.
  - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/VAVetBenefits/status/1265659176203833345?s=20>
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransBenefits/posts/10158288334263416:0>
- Total VA email messages sent from January 24, 2020 with reference to COVID-19 and/or Coronavirus in either the subject line or body content up to today: 288,566,268. VA email percentage directly related to COVID-19 Outreach is 288,566,268/519,433,938 or 54.2%.
- A VETtext message describing Veterans Health Administration's re-opening plans was sent today to a total of 8.1M Veterans.



## Guidance Documents and Human Capital

- Provided HR Emergency Preparedness Guide to employees and managers to answer questions on a wide range of human capital topics (e.g., travel, leave, telework, employee relations, labor relations, compensation, staffing, reasonable accommodation); continue to update based on new guidance.
- Released system-wide policy released directing curtailment of routine appointments and elective surgeries at all VA facilities (3/17/20)
- Released guidance for Geriatrics & Extended Care Home & Community Based Services Programs to protect Veterans and staff including strict limitations on visitors in geriatric facilities, increasing the use of virtual modalities for clinical care, and screening all essential visitors or residents of a Veterans home prior to initiating contact.
- Released Chaplain guidance related to COVID-19 transmitted to the field (3/17/20) that continues to provide spiritual support to Veterans while using appropriate PPE or and utilizing virtual modalities for worship services. Any large-scale chaplain events have been cancelled. (3/17/20)
- Implementation of an Episodic Special Patient Icon in Bed Management Solution sent to the field
  - VA recently launched an Episodic Patient Icon to identify inpatient Veterans who are presumptive or confirmed positive cases during epidemics. These icons can also be used to identify negative pressure rooms which allows for real-time bed capacity across the enterprise.
- Issuing proposed COVID-19 Interim Suitability & Fingerprint Guidance to comply with social distancing recommendations; guidance includes temporarily suspension of an initial fingerprint check (SAC) prior to new employees and contractor's entry-on-duty (EOD); VA continuing other investigatory measures such as initiation of e-Quip.
- Finalized a response to various union demands to bargain implementation of measures and precautions being put in place by the Department to protect people and property during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The general response denies immediate negotiations while advising any impact and implementation bargaining will occur post-implementation when the pandemic ceases. The Department is willing to meet all its legal obligations, including negotiating with unions representing VA employees, but must also focus on providing care to our Veterans while protecting the safety and security of our facilities and the health of all in them.
- Issued guidance memorandum authorizing waiver of the biweekly pay limitation on premium pay for workers performing duties in response to COVID-19, permitting overtime and premium pay for eligible workers up to the annual limitation.
- OPM signed dual-compensation waiver to allow hiring of reemployed annuitants (i.e. retired employees) during COVID-19 by streamlining current delegations of authority for waiver of salary offset
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP): Prepared to increase scope of the EAP contract with FOH for COVID-19 counselling if needed.
- VA announced the policy change that allows for a dual compensation waiver for retired annuitants (retired VA employees) to be hired back to VA to meet the increased need of healthcare workers during COVID-19
- VA working with OPM to expedite blanket requests from VA to exceed the limits on recruitment, relocation, and retention incentives for Title 5 employees to help provide necessary staff
- Coordinated with DOD to identify approximately 8581 employees who are reserve/guard members and 669 are currently activated – 122 nurses and 24 doctors included in this number.

- Internal bulletin being drafted to implement new OPM guidance on flexible on-boarding this coming pay period and as needed during COVID to minimize physical proximity (such as the oath of office, the form I-9, fingerprinting, orientation, physical examinations, drug testing).
- Submitted to OPM: (1) request for dual comp waiver to cover 2210 (IT Specialists) series occupations, and (2) direct hire authority for VBA positions-- Veteran Service Representative, Rating Veterans Service Representative, and Legal Administrative Specialist.
- Guidance sent to HR offices of a temporary postponement of pre-employment applicant drug testing for testing designated positions (TDP) for up to 180 days.
- Authority to Approve Weather & Safety Leave for Employees
- Guidance for Elective Gastroenterology and Hepatology Procedures – COVID-19
- Guidance for VHA Eye Care Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- OCHCO Bulletin – Temporary Authorization to Delay Pre-Placement and Recurring Physical Exams
- Guidance for VHA Emergency Child Care Center Operations
- Dual Compensation Waiver Guidance for VHA
- Guidance on Safeguards for Military Environmental Registry Exams to Protect Veterans
- Guidance on Patient Specimen Shipments - UPS shipping
- Guidance on Preparedness for Mechanical Ventilation of COVID-19 patients during Pandemic
- Examining with OPM on a waiver or use of existing interchange agreements to detail excepted to competitive positions
- Collaborating with DOL and DHS/USCIS on a waiver of labor market review for non-citizens.
- Collaborating with the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association to let that community participate in helping VA fill its openings.
- VA send new (coordinated) guidance to the field on MISSION Act considerations (3/27/20).
- VA released the VHA COVID-19 Response Plan which provides guidance to the field. The operations plan includes strategies to address many COVID-19 cases to include alternative sites of care for Veterans with COVID-19. (3/27/20)
- VA Veterans Health Administration sent the following guidance to the field (3/27/2020)
  - Delegation of Authority – Group Recruitment and Retention Incentives for Title 38 Employees
  - Recruitment, Hiring and Organizational Changes During COVID-19
  - COVID-19 VHACO Clinician Request
  - Postponement of Long-Term Care Surveys
  - Establishment of New Hire Processing Timeline
  - Office of Nursing Services Recruitment – Retired Annuitants and Travel Nurse Corps
- Recommending OPM delay Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) by 3 months. VA is considering delay of VA's annual All Employee Survey (AES) to September.
- OPM approved direct hire authority for the following VBA positions: Veterans Service Representative; Rating Veterans Service Representative; Legal Administrative Specialist.
- Modifying Bulletin on waiving physical examinations during COVID-19 to address stress on Employee Occupational Health (EOH) offices who are focused on COVID-19 screening.
- Working modifications to HRSmart to support mass hiring to support deployable medical personnel. (3/29/2020)
- Submitting request to OPM for broad authority to approve Special Contribution Awards (SCA) above the \$10K agency limit; drafting changes to current policy (VAH 5017) to delegate from SECVA to EIC authority to approve SCAs up to \$10K.
- Notified HR offices on COVID-19 Excepted Service Hiring Authority for Schedule A approved by OPM. this allows us to quickly hire any Title 5 positions that are in direct response COVID-19. VA may use

this to fill positions on a temporary basis for up to one year as needed in response to, or as a result of COVID-19. (3/30/2020)

- OPM sending VA job opportunities to over 1M retirees.
- VA All Employee Survey postponed until September 2020.
- Notified Human Resources (HR) offices of the Federal employee leave provisions under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the requirement to post the Families First Coronavirus Response Act Notice at VA facilities.
- In accordance with OMB and VA COVID-19 guidance, National Diversity Internship Program (NDIP) FY 20 summer session has been cancelled.
- VHA New Guidance to the field (3/31/2020):
  - Leveraging Capacity to Support Surges in Demand for COVID-19
  - Credentialing and Privileging COVID-19 (Reduced credentialing process for providers in order to expedite onboarding of critical medical staff)
  - Resilience Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (RRTP) Hardening Guidance (Details guidance on efforts to protect staff and patients in our Domiciliary Units)
  - Supplemental Information - Radiology and Nuclear Scheduling and Orders Management During the COVID-19 Pandemic
  - Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance for Urgent and Emergent Surgical Procedures
  - Guidance on Access Standards in response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updated (coordinated with OMB)
- VA OGC advised that the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has the authority during the COVID-19 global pandemic emergency to procure lodging for employees working at their local worksite (e.g., if staff have a need to stay away from their homes/family members and continue to work (e.g. Emergency Department physicians), or a need to stay close by for faster response time, if VHA documents in writing why it has concluded that this event at all or some facilities involves imminent danger to human life and why paying for employee meals and lodging is necessary to combat that imminent danger.
- Assistant Secretary HRA/OSP and Assistant Secretary OIT co-signed a memorandum dated March 31 outlining temporary procedures for personnel security vetting and appointment of new employees and alternative PIV credentials for eligible users during Coronavirus 2019 National Emergency; this guidance implements direction issued to executive departments and agencies from the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Personnel Management.
- Provided guidance on March 26 to field claims processors and the public on good cause for extending claims filing deadlines based on COVID-19. (4/1/2020)
- VHA Guidance Issued to the Field: (4/1/2020)
  - COVID-19 Definitions of Bed Categories
  - Suspension of Registered Nurse Transition to Practice Residency Program
  - COVID - Clinical Resource Hub Guidance
  - Guidance for the Hiring Compensation and Utilization of Alternate Nurse and Unlicensed Assistive Personnel
  - COVID-19 - Process for Cancellation of Non-urgent Operating Room Procedures.
  - Specifically, under existing VA regulations, if the time limits within which claimants or beneficiaries are required to act in order to perfect a claim, file an appeal, or challenge an adverse VA decision expired, the time may be extended for “good cause” shown.
  - Accordingly, claimants impacted by COVID-19 may request an extension for filing based on good cause. VBA regional office claims processors will grant the extension request, provided the time limit in question expired on or after March 13, 2020.

- Notified HR offices of the Federal employee leave provisions under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the requirement to post the Families First Coronavirus Response Act notice at VA facilities. This provides up to two weeks (up to 80 hours) of emergency paid sick leave to all federal civil service employees if they are unable to work (or telework) under specified circumstances related to COVID-19 – unless they are in an exempted category.
- Direct Hire Authority allowed by OPM for certain additional positions in NCA and VHA.
- OPM has authorized VA Direct Hire Authority for one year for the following positions at all grade levels nationwide for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency: Industrial Hygienist, GS-0690 Plumber, WG-4206 Maintenance Worker, WG-4749 Supervisory Engineer, GS-0801 Specialty Engineer, GS-0800 Laborer, WG-3502 Cook, WG-7404 Cemetery Caretaker, WG-4754. OPM has also authorized DHA for the following occupation and at this specific grade level: Human Resources Specialist, GS-0201-12.
- **VHA Guidance to the field:**
  - Changes to In-Person Identity Verification for the My HealtheVet Website
  - COVID-19 Bed Expansion Planning Signed
  - Move! Weight Management Program Guidance for COVID-19 Pandemic Response
  - EIC Memorandum Authorization to pay for Lodging and Meals
  - Contracted Outpatient Sites of Care COVID-19 Virtual Care Information and Updates
- Developing policy on the ability of VA law enforcement personnel, with proper notice, to inspect the personal effects of employees exiting VA healthcare facilities in order to prevent the theft of personal protective equipment needed to protect health care workers during the on-going public health emergency. This is becoming an issue during the Pandemic. (4/4/2020)
- VA signed a memorandum regarding the Child Care Subsidy Program that has temporarily expanded the total family income ceiling from \$89,999 to the maximum limit of \$144,000 for support during the COVID-19 crisis; allows eligible employees to seek reimbursement on some child-care costs. (4/6/2020)
- Veterans Health Administration guidance sent to field: (4/6/2020)
  - Grade and Pay Determinations for Nurses/Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) During COVID-19
  - Homeless Program Office (HPO) Guidance on Face to Face Visits
  - On-Hand Inventory Reporting Requirements for Critical Care and Coronavirus Drugs
  - Update: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Facemask and N95 Respirator Use
  - Tip Sheet for Caregivers During COVID-19
  - VHA COVID 19 Priorities During Transition to VA's New EHRM
  - COVID-19 Employee Deployment - Special Contribution Award Guidance
- VA Public Health, Coronavirus website to provide Veterans & Staff guidance and information now active. Website visited 191,348 times with 172,253 unique visits (4/6/2020)
- Published policy revision updates to VA Handbook 5005 to remove the requirement for Professional Standards Boards for the following occupations listed in 38 U.S.C. § 7401 (3), which will reduce the time to hire for these positions by streamlining the process: physical therapy assistant; occupational therapy assistant; marriage family therapist; therapeutic radiologic technologist; kinesiotherapist; orthotist and prosthetist; medical records administration; blind rehabilitation specialist; blind rehabilitation outpatient specialist; licensed professional mental health counselor, prosthetic representative; nuclear medicine technologist; occupational therapist; physical therapist; dietitian and nutritionist; medical records technician; and therapeutic medical physicist. (4/7/2020)



- VA has decided to defer the Leadership VA (LVA) FY20 Class until FY21 and increase the size from 80 to 100 to make up for some of the leadership development throughput lost from postponing the current cohort. (4/7/2020)
- Veterans Health Administration Guidance to the Field: (4/7/2020)

#### COVID-19 VHA Guidance for Tuberculosis Testing of New Employees

- Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Compliance Inspection During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Accreditation Contract Delayed
- 2020 US Census Participation for Veterans in VA Residential Settings
- Continuity in Mental Health Services and Suicide Prevention Activities During COVID-19
- COVID-19 Temporary/Expedited Appointment Credentialing Process
- Release of Updated Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and New FY 2021 Basic and Prevailing State Home Per Diem Rates for State Veteran Homes
- Focused Professional Practice Evaluation and Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation Process during Presidential Declared State of Emergency – COVID-19
- Guidance on Anticoagulation Use and Monitoring for Veterans Health Administration Anticoagulation Programs During VHA's COVID-19 Emergency Response
- Contact Center Script and Screening (COVID-19) Updated
- VA received approval from OPM to waive the salary off-set for 2210 (Grades 07-15) and 340 series (Grades 12-14) positions. (4/11/2020)
- VA has issued guidance that starting immediately all CLC Staff and Veterans will be tested for COVID-19. CLCs are VA's nursing homes and care for particularly vulnerable Veterans. (4/11/2020)
- OPM approved VA's request for direct hire authority for the following additional 11 positions at all grade levels on a nationwide basis to support COVID-19. The approval begins today and is for one year: personnel security specialist; program support assistant; cemetery representative; health systems specialist; construction control representative; electronics industrial control mechanic; painter; equipment servicer; air conditioning equipment operator; equipment operator; laundry worker. (4/13/2020)
- Notified HR offices of flexibilities to defer random drug testing in certain conditions due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Establishes limited conditions in which a facility director may approve a deferral of a random drug test for an employee occupying a testing designated position. (4/13/2020)
- Revised Guidance on new hire applicant drug testing: April 17 revised bulletin issued updating prior guidance regarding how long an applicant drug test may be postponed; prior bulletin issued on March 25, 2020 advised that due to COVID-19, applicant testing could be postponed for up to 180 days after the applicant's entrance on duty in order for VA to meet emergency hiring needs. The revised bulletin includes the following statement: "It is the responsibility of the HR office to schedule the drug test as soon as practicable, but no later than 90 calendar days from the date of appointment." (4/19/2020)
- VA received approval from OPM on its request to waive the 25 percent limit on recruitment, relocation, and individual retention incentives, and the 10 percent limit on group retention incentives for certain occupations that are responding to workload surges due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). (4/20/2020)
- Provided notices to the field to remind all employees of the services that the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offers to them and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic (guidance was pre-cleared through OMB/OPM). (4/22/2020)

- Provided guidance of required steps for expediting onboarding for new VA hires. Steps have been streamlined to meet urgent staffing needs created by COVID-19 (guidance was pre-cleared through OMB/OPM). (4/22/2020)
- The Secretary signed a Delegation of Authority (April 23) that allows VA Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Other Key Officials at equivalent level of authority, the authority to exclude an employee, who is a health care provider or emergency responder, from application of the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act, Division E and the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act Division C of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). Accompanying guidance (that was vetted by OMB) was issued to the field as well via a Chief Human Capital Officer Bulletin. (4/23/2020)
- VA launched a COVID-19 chatbot on VA.gov this week. The chatbot helps answer veterans' questions about COVID-19 and direct them to available VA resources (4/23/2020)
- SECVA signed a delegation of authority VA Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Other Key Officials, the authority to waive certain limitations on pay for work done in support of the response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The following pay limits are listed in the guidance as covered: basic pay, nurse executive and pharmacist executive special pay, aggregate pay, annual pay, premium pay, and incentives and awards. (4/27/2020)
- On May 12, 2020, VA issued a bulletin (cleared through OMB) that notified HR offices of a temporary authorization to extend the grace period to obtain licenses for currently unlicensed or uncertified GS-9/11 Social Workers (SW) and GS-9 Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT). Due to COVID-19, many state licensing boards, and professional testing centers, have limited operational capacity or have closed entirely. This exception will remain 90 days after the COVID-19 national emergency has been lifted or 90 days after a testing center or resumption of normal operations, whichever is first. (5/13/2020)
- OPM approved additional direct hire authority for the following position at all grade levels on a nationwide basis to support COVID-19: Personnel Security Assistant (GS-0086). The authority is effective immediately and is for one year. (5/20/2020)
- VA Notified HR offices of updated information on various leave options that may be utilized by employees during COVID-19. The bulletin clarifies the conditions in which telework, weather and safety leave, emergency paid sick leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA), paid leave under the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act (EFMLEA), and leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA leave) may be authorized. (5/20/2020)
- VA sent version 6 of COVID-19 FAQs adding several new HR topics. The table of changes also provides a quick reference to other updates made throughout the document on the following topics including: Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), Pre-Placement Examinations, Onboarding, PIV and Background Investigations, Employee Relations, Telework and Reasonable Accommodation, Return to Work. (5/20/2020)

### **COVID Response (VHA)**

- Within a day of the first confirmed US case, VA began planning for COVID-19 by establishing screening and triage, isolation and quarantine, and infection control strategy and plans.
- Activated Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) to Level 1 on January 20, 2020 and it remains activated.
- Daily crisis action team meetings at 3pm to discuss updates and remain in sync internally and with other federal guidance. (3/9/2020)

- Screening points established at every major VHA Healthcare Facility (170 hospitals that serve nearly 9 million veterans across the country. (3/10/20)
- Limited admissions to Spinal Cord Injury Units - 24 major centers; 24,000 Veterans. (3/10/20)
- Restricted admission to VA Community Living Centers (CLC) (134 nationwide nursing homes supporting 41,000 Veterans. (3/10/20)
- Submitted Task Order to HHS to receive an additional 250K masks in Martinsburg; 1.5M masks at the SDC in Hines, IL
- VA is experiencing a reduction in surgical case load due to delaying non-emergent care; down from 1,900 per day to 1,300 per day. Additionally, there has been a 5% drop in ER visits; increased bed capacity by 1/3 across the VA. (3/16/20)
- VA will receive 20,000 testing swabs. (3/23/20)
- Packaged 50,000 masks today for shipment to Denver and Brooklyn. (3/23/2020)
- Future deployment of the Mobile Vet Center to New Orleans, LA will start week of 23 Mar 2020. VA reviewing locations for additional deployments. VA to set up Vet Center Community Access Point to provide direct counseling to Veterans receiving treatment through the HHS location.
- Working to purchase facepiece elastomeric respirators based on CDC Guidance for managing COVID-19 patients; It is recommended that elastomeric respirators be used in order to conserve Surgical 95 and N95 filtering facepieces for high risk procedures that require a sterile field. (3/24/2020)
- Converting all ICU beds to negative airflow beds with a goal of reengineering by 3/30/20
- VA experiencing a high reduction (20%) in urgent care utilization showing Veterans are heeding advice to stay home. (3/24/2020)
- 20k hand sanitizer bottles have been received and will be deployed to the facilities. (3/24/2020)
- Davita and Fresenius Dialysis companies establishing joint cohorting sites for individual markets where COVID 19 dialysis patients can be treated in isolation.
- VA is no longer considering issuing a temporary waiver of the >90% bed hold requirement and the 75% Veteran bed requirement for State Veterans Homes to help ensure they remain solvent during this crisis. After further review, OGC advised that VA has no authority to waive the regulatory requirement. In addition, we were asked to review draft legislative language that would waive the above requirement. The State Homes have a hotline to Congress so we assume this is something they asked for and we will support.
- VA met with OIRA and OMB on MISSION Act considerations. VA is not pausing the MISSION Act. The department is ensuring the best medical interests of Veterans are met by adhering to the law in a manner that takes into account whether referrals for community care are clinically appropriate during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Manila, Philippines Embassy will close in the next two weeks, in which case our VA clinic will close. Eight employees will be returned to the US (1 VHA and 7 VBA) and this will impact 6,000 veterans who receive care from that clinic.
- Activating enhanced Tele-ICU hub
- To support volunteerism, VHA is authorizing Special Contribution Awards up to the limit and asking OPM for authority to go above \$10,000 but under \$25,000 where needed and also making an exception to policy (VA Directive 5007) to allow per regulation recruitment, relocation and retention bonuses for any appointment at least 6 months in duration.
- Received shipment of N-95 masks, swabs and test kits for distribution (3/27/2020)
- Currently supporting approximately 2,500 concurrent telehealth appointments, with a goal of 10,000 concurrent appointments. (3/27/2020)
- With support from our Center for Strategic Partnerships, Office of Research and Development is establishing agreements with two commercial Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) that has allowed

four of our medical centers to join in ongoing COVID-19 clinical trials and positions us to be ready for any future trials using these IRBs. VA opened trials in Palo Alto, Atlanta, New Orleans and Denver, where VA is seeing a surge of COVID patients.

- Partnering with Amazon, to purchase 500 tablets to enable access for Veterans, families and caregivers via VHA Telehealth Service to help ensure medical access and reduce possible exposure estimated launch. (3/30/2020)
- Assisting Homeless Program on development of Assessment and Recovery Center.
- Since the pandemic first started impacting the U.S (as of 3/5), approximately 1,626 families have postponed scheduled services citing COVID-19 concerns.
- VA working an Agreement with Reliance for the use of Advarra as the commercial IRB of record for a COVID-19 study using Gilead's Remdesvir at the Palo Alto VA Medical Center.
- VA has increased telehealth capacity by 15% to 11,000 max concurrent user call capacity.
- Medical Centers are experiencing serious PPE shortage. Several sites doing 3D printing, but it is not enough. Soon, PPE will be rationed; one surgical mask issued per week, one N95 per day. VISN 6 began mask sterilization with Berrett – 2400 mask in a 24-hour period. (4/4/2020)
- 2 Medical Centers have a greater than 70% occupancy of Med/Surg beds with COVID patients: Bronx, NY (86% occupancy) and Boston, MA (72%). (4/11/2020)
- On April 10<sup>th</sup> President Trump signed the "VA Tele-Hearing Modernization Act"
- Massachusetts Chelsea Soldiers' Home (Non-VA Facility) (4/12/2020)
  - 7 veteran resident deaths
  - 22 veteran residents who have tested positive
  - 29 staff tested positive
  - VA Boston has accepted patients for care- total count pending
- VHA is in the process of testing all Community Living Center veterans and staff and should have this complete next week. Approximately 7000 veterans live in our CLCs across the nation. (4/16/2020)
- VA is continuing an aggressive expansion of our Tele-ICU capabilities. Yesterday, VA completed the Fayetteville and Salisbury VA Medical Centers. Today we are working on Hampton and San Juan. 51 total sites for network configuration have been completed to date. (5/13/2020)
- VA recorded a peak number of minutes for telehealth visits in a single day at over 2 million; pre-COVID averages were 300,000 minutes per day (5/13/2020)
- VA kicked off its new COVID-19 Joint Data and Analytic Fusion Cell Integrated Project Team (IPT), which will conduct analytics to fill current gaps in COVID-19 understanding. (5/14/2020)
- DoD is supporting VA via MilAir use to transport medical personnel from Reno, Nevada to Newark, New Jersey due to lack of availability of commercial flights (5/17/2020)
- VA expanded network capacity for telehealth by launching Care2 Cloud. Supported 1,652 calls on May 27, the highest peak concurrent calls for Care2 Cloud to date. This is an increase of 71% in one week.
- This month, May 1 through May 25, VA Video Connect has supported record 221,427 unique Veterans (entire month total for February: 29,683; March 102,667; April 218,905)

### **COVID Response (BVA/VBA)**

- All VA Regional Benefit Offices (ROs) are closed to the public. Benefits are still being processed virtually.
- Insurance services extended premium payment grace periods; reinstatement deadlines; and Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI) application deadlines. (3/17/20)



- Board of Veterans Appeals suspended all travel board, video, and central office hearings and is prepared to provide virtual hearings where possible if Veterans and the Representative are willing and have the necessary equipment. (3/17/20)
- VA's Loan Guaranty Service issued program guidance for VA's Real Estate Owned and Portfolio Servicing Contract (RPSC) contractor, placing a moratorium on evictions for VA-owned properties for 60 days due to COVID-19.
- VA's Debt Management Center, through coordination with the Veterans Benefits Administration and Veterans Service Organizations, implemented a 60-day COVID-19 debt relief plan to provide temporary financial relief in accordance with Veterans' request.
- Notified GI Bill Beneficiaries and school officials through email and social media. If schools change modality of training to online classes for the current term, VA will continue to pay benefit payments.
- On Saturday, March 21, 2020, the President signed into law S. 3503, which clarifies how the Department of Veterans Affairs should treat in-person courses of study that convert to distance learning formats due to health-related situations and other emergencies.  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/bill-announcement-89/>
- Effective immediately, the Board of Veterans Appeals will advance on docket (AOD) appeals for Veterans diagnosed with COVID-19. (3/24/2020)
- The Board of Veterans Appeals will accept AMA Notices of Disagreement (NOD) with a typed signature in lieu of a wet signature. (3/24/2020)
- Effective COB March 24, 2020 the National Personnel Records Center will be closing its facility in accordance with local St. Louis municipal guidance. Critical VA personnel will remain behind to continue to process priority records requests.
- A total of 631 Transition Assistance events have been cancelled to date due to installation restrictions. VBA is offering these transition related courses virtually (via eLearning) to all Servicemembers and their families.
- Issued joint guidance with Pension & Fiduciary Service and Appeals Management Office that the COVID-19 pandemic qualifies as "good cause" for granting extension requests. Specifically, if a claimant requests an extension to file forms or documents because the COVID-19 pandemic affected their ability to meet such deadlines, VBA will grant the requested extension, provided the time period expired on or after March 13, 2020 (the date the President issued a national emergency).
- Coordinated with Department of Treasury to suspend the collection of all debt owed to VA until May 31, 2020 for any Veterans seeking debt assistance due to COVID-19. This includes suspending referrals to the Treasury Offset (TOP) and Cross Servicing (CS) processes.
- VA announced today a number of actions to provide Veterans with financial, benefits and claims help amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial relief actions include the following until further notice: (4/3/2020)
- As of April 3, VBA has temporarily suspended all in-person appointments provided by VBA's contract examination vendors, where the Veteran physically reports to the medical provider's office. The contract exam vendors will continue to complete as many examinations as possible using virtual means that do not involve an in-person examination, including tele-exams and ACE. For some disabilities, in-person examinations are required and cannot be completed through an alternate method. (4/6/2020)
  - Suspending all actions on Veteran debts under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department.
  - Suspending collection action or extending repayment terms on preexisting VA debts, as the Veteran prefers.
  - For Veterans who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and need immediate action on their appeals, as opposed to a filing extension, the Board of Veterans' Appeals will Advance their

appeal on Docket (AOD). Click [here](#) to find out how to file for AOD and what documentation is required.

- Veterans Group Life Insurance: Prudential has extended grace periods by 90-days for premium payments and reinstatements, including the time allowed to submit the Attending Physician Statement (APS) required for some medical underwriting applications.
- Boston Regional Benefits Office – Implemented two-week suspension of local mail processing effective April 7, 2020, ending April 21, 2020 during the anticipated peak in COVID-19 infections in the Boston community. Employees will not be authorized to access any of the three Boston, Manchester, White River Junction (BMW) facilities without prior approval as determined by the Director or Assistant Director on a case-by-case basis. (4/7/2020)
- VA published a circular on Loan Guaranty Service to inform the public of changes due to CARES Act which requires a moratorium on foreclosures of Federally backed mortgage loans and a forbearance period for payments on such loans for borrowers who are experiencing a financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the COVID-19 emergency. (4/9/2020)
- Since the CARES act passed VA has worked with Dept. of Treasury on a solution to ensure that Veterans and Survivors who do not file tax returns and rely solely on VA benefits for income still receive stimulus checks via the CARES Act. (4/16/2020)
  - VA is securely providing beneficiary data to the IRS to ensure that no action will be required of Compensation and Pension benefit payment recipients or surviving family members receiving survivors benefits to receive their 'Economic Impact Payment' (EIP) if they do not file an annual tax return.
  - The IRS has also set up a website portal for Economic Impact Payments (EIP) if veterans, survivors or other non-filers wish to submit their information that way.
  - VA will notify press, stakeholders and Congress of these actions over the coming days.
  - This effort is complete
- On April 20, 2020, published a notice in the Federal Register which provides that, for the purpose of determining entitlement to benefits, any correspondence that is received by VA from any claimant during the period March 1, 2020 through 60 calendar days from the date the President ends the national state of emergency, that contains claims, information, or evidence, will be considered received on the date of postmark. (4/20/2020)
- On April 28, 2020, POTUS signed House Bill 6322, or Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, into Public Law 116-140. This new law gives VA additional authorities to continue GI Bill payments for the period beginning on March 1, 2020 and ending on December 31, 2020. VA is currently working to implement the changes: (5/1/2020)
  - continue payments to students participating in the Work Study Program who are furloughed or have to stop working.
  - continue to pay benefits for up to 4 weeks to GI Bill students whose classes are suspended, even if school is still open.
  - restoration of entitlement for GI Bill students who lose credit due to school closure or schools' suspension of training.
  - extend the delimiting date for Montgomery GI Bill and Post-9/11 G Bill students if they are unable to attend training due to COVID-19.
- Based on VA's collaboration with IRS and Treasury, approximately 396K Veterans and survivors will receive nearly \$475 million in economic impact payments this week. VA is still working to enact solutions to ensure that Veterans who live in a U.S. Territory, have a fiduciary or have a foreign address are able to receive an Economic Impact Payment. (5/12/2020)

- VBA will resume in-person medical disability examinations for its compensation and pension programs within the areas covered by the 20 Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Lead Sites identified in its phased reopening plan. VBA examination vendors will implement operation plans using current CDC guidelines for clinical sanitation and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use. In-person examinations will only be scheduled with the consent of the Veteran, and VBA will hold a Veteran's benefit claim for later exam scheduling and a decision if consent is withheld out of concern for exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

## **COVID Response NCA**

- Effective Monday, March 23, 2020, committal services and the rendering of military funeral honors will not be conducted until further notice at VA national cemeteries. Immediate family members (limited to no more than 10 individuals) of the deceased may witness the interment if requested. Currently, approximately 1174 families have postponed scheduled services citing COVID-19 concerns.
- In consultation with DoD, NCA has discontinued disinterment efforts with the Defense POW/MIA Accountability Agency (DoD) at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) effective immediately and until further notice in order to focus NCA resources on essential burial operations.
- Certain VA national cemeteries, located on active military installations, are being impacted by changes in base access (Fort Richardson, AK; Leavenworth, KS). Due to a change in base operating status, the general public is restricted from accessing the cemetery located on the base. NCA has coordinated with base authorities to ensure funeral homes are able to access the cemetery so direct casket/cremation interment operations are still available (without the option to "witness". (3/27/2020)
- Starting Thursday, April 9, 2020, NCA will no longer provide the option for families to witness interments at Calverton National Cemetery to help improve workload efficiency and increase the capacity of interment operations at this cemetery, which is located in the NYC epicenter. This change is being communicated to funeral homes in NY and families with interments scheduled on this date and beyond.
- National Cemetery Administration: Effective, Wednesday, April 15, 2020, witnessing family members will now be asked to view the interment from their cars or the road very near their cars. This change will further promote social distancing at national cemeteries and will be communicated to the funeral home community via Gov Delivery; online and to the Hill via OCLA. Families may continue to visit the gravesite in the days following the interment consistent with CDC guidelines and local travel restrictions. (4/13/2020)

## **Emergency Management/Fourth Mission**

- CAO and VA's Director of Operations and Emergency Management communicated with HHS to ensure VA's Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needs are prioritized. HHS has agreed to release a stop gap quantity of N95 protective masks to VA this week. (March 16, 2020)
- Deployed 16 Nursing Assistants to assist with screening of AMCITs repatriated (all have been demobilized)
- Deployed a Liaison Officer to the HHS Secretary's Operations Center (SOC) to assist with response coordination.

- Conducted analysis of VA Medical facilities contingency data to identify locations for potential COVID-19 dedicated facilities.
- VHA has detailed four personnel to FEMA HQ to support the operations: Dr. John Areno, VISN16 Chief Medical Officer & Pulmonary/Critical Care physician; Mary Mather, IPEC/National Program Manager for LTC; Andrew Centineo, PL&O; Michael Forgy, OEM.
- All Area Emergency Managers are in place at each FEMA region.
- VA is concerned with the national ventilator shortage and is working with FEMA Task Force (TF) to find other sources of supply. VA will receive 25 ventilators this week and an additional 25 next week.
- VA activating DEMPS for New Orleans (160 Clinical Staff) and New York (50 Nurses). We will begin moving people there starting today.
- Collaborating with Peace Corps who has 7,000 volunteers ready to work (due to evacuations); working with them on open position advertising and employment opportunities to support VA's mission during this national emergency and beyond.
- VA identified a potential shortage of 1K nurses in certain hotspots of the nation and is working a combination of solutions to include:
  - Rehire of retired nurses
  - Hire of new employees through special hiring authorities and waivers
  - DEMPS moves from other non-stressed areas in VA
- Acting PDUSH met with NYC Emergency Management Commissioner to discuss need for HHS tasking, sharing of data, and the process for referral of COVID positive and negative patients, preferably Veterans, to be admitted at VA facilities.
- Area Emergency Managers supporting repatriation centers:
  - Travis and Lackland demobilizing today (3/26/2020)
  - Dobbins and Miramar will demobilize tomorrow (3/27/2020)
- Growing the roster for Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System (DEMPS) volunteers for deployment to New York City and New Orleans.
- NY Harbor VA Hospital received four civilian patients from Elmhurst Hospital. One was in respiratory failure and admitted to the ICU. Information about the other three is pending. (3/29/2020)
  - Four to five additional patients are expected overnight from Elmhurst Hospital.
  - The five patients that were to be transferred from Lincoln Hospital have not arrived yet.
- Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System Deployments (Various Specialties) (4/1/2020)
  - (27) Personnel being processed for deployment.
  - (14) Personnel deployed/on the ground at various locations.
  - (2) VISNS requested personnel deployed through DEMPS
- JAVITS NY Medical Station and USNS Comfort Transfer guidance received
- Mobile Vet Center Deployment Update (4/4/2020)
  - New York, NY (Deployment Started)  
Operation Gotham at the Javits Center in New York City began to receive patients on the afternoon of 31 March 2020. Vet Center staff connected with 64 Service members over the course of the deployment. Contact has been made with 2 civilians.
  - Pasadena, CA (Deployment Started)  
Operation started on 1 April 2020 and ended April 3. Minimal contact will seek a better location.
  - Portland, OR (Deployment Started)  
Operation started on 31 March 2020 and staff are located in a shopping center in Portland, OR. Vet Center staff connected with 40 Veterans, Service members and families over the course of the deployment. Contact has been made with 12 civilians



- Altoona, PA (Deployment Started)  
MVC stationed at VAMC to assist with screening. Veteran Outreach Program Specialist on site.
- Dayton, OH (Under Development)  
Request Mobile Vet Center at Dayton Medical Center to assist with COVID screening, will begin Monday April 6
- Developing requirements for Morgue Expansion Capabilities. (4/4/20)
- Working to identify medical consumables/equipment for recently purchased Field ICU Unit. Location for deployment of Unit still under consideration. (4/4/20)
- VA sent a list of critical PPE supplies with requested quantities to RADM Polowczyk, Supply Chain Sub-Task Force Director for consideration and prioritization. (4/5/20)
- Developing language for HHS sub-task on FEMA Mission Assignment to VHA for \$1.5M in pharmaceutical support to Javits shelter in NYC.
- Mobile Vet Center (MVC) Update: (4/7/20)
  - Altoona, PA (Deployment Started). MVC stationed at VAMC to assist with COVID-19 screening. Veteran Outreach Program Specialist on site.
  - Dayton, OH (Deployment Under Development). Request for MVC stationed at VAMC to assist with COVID-19 screening.
  - New York, NY (Deployment Paused). Vet Center staff have connected with 99 service members over the course of the deployment. Contact has been made with 2 civilians
  - Pasadena, CA and Portland, OR deployments ended
- Identified a total of 20 tribal governments that have Emergency Declarations
- VA developing “live” map journal to model next VA “hot spots” for our healthcare system. (4/8/20)
- Continued development of plan on how VA might assist IHS and other tribal nations health systems. (4/10/20)
- Determining the need of resourcing second order of trailers for fatality management. (4/10/2020)
- Update on Mask sterilization efforts with Battelle: (4/10/20)
  - Sites either currently running or will be running within two weeks: Stoneybrook, NY; Brooklyn, NY; Plain City, OH; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Washington, DC
  - Planned future states: Connecticut, New Jersey, Indiana, Florida, Texas, Michigan
- DOD approved MilAir transport to send nurses from Maine and Washington State to New York City. The mission is underway. (4/26/20)
- VA is sending is sending at least 1 NP and 1 Nurse to the IHS Shiprock Clinic to assist with the Navajo COVID-19 crisis. (4/26/20)
- VA has an increased need for Oxygen concentrators and portable ventilators. FEMA is being prioritized over VA and these are becoming increasingly hard to obtain. Update: VA began discussions with manufacturers regarding these items today. The issue is that the vendors received 10 months’ worth of demand in three weeks and it has depleted current inventory. Vendors have increased product lines and estimate mid-May before supply availability. (4/23/20)

### **Construction, Contracting and Supply Chain**

- VA’s Financial Services Center established an Emergency Buyers sub-group of 13,000 Government Purchase Cardholders within VA’s Amazon Business Account providing special access to select vendors for critically needed supplies in accordance with the Chief Acquisition Officer’s COVID-19 supply chain efforts

- During the COVID-19 emergency, private sector entities have offered to donate equipment and supplies needed to protect personnel from contracting COVID-19. VA OGC worked a delegation of approval to VISN Directors to ensure efficient approval of donated gifts.
- Construction projects in Massachusetts, California, New York, Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico have been either stopped completely or activities severely curtailed by this national emergency and shelter in place orders.
- US Army Corps of Engineers will visit the former Denver medical facility to assess the building's viability for FEMA/HHS use.
- On March 24<sup>th</sup>, CAO reported to VA OIG a vendor in Louisiana who is offering medical supplies and equipment up to 1000% above average cost and likely does not meet FDA guidelines.
- VA working with various vendors for purchase of Chloroquine Phosphate and ventilators.
  - Use of the new Open Opportunities, a governmentwide platform offering professional development opportunities to current federal employees, as a central location for federal agencies to post details, microdetails, and/or temporary assignments.
- VA OGC partnered with the VA Voluntary Service to create a universal gift form for distribution within VA listing general departmental needs during the COVID-19 emergency. Each VAMC Director can solicit and accept the listed donations pursuant to VHA Directive 4721, VHA General Post Fund – Gifts and Donations. (3/27/20)
- On March 30<sup>th</sup>, the Denver Logistics Center (DLC) will receive a shipment of 500 iPads for the VA Video Connect (VVC) Community. These iPads are designed to allow “skype” type appointments between the Veteran patient and the Care Provider. The DLC will prepare the iPads for immediate shipment to fulfill backorders.
- Invocation of the Defense Production Act (DPA) resulted in confusion in the commercial sector as to how to prioritize orders, resulting in delays and cancellations on orders and deliveries to VA. Under the DPA, the FEMA Task Force, used its authority to divert materiel originally offered to VA for delivery to the SNS.
  - VA orders for masks, gowns, gloves, and PAPP have been cancelled by our vendors. This is high risk for not only our enterprise, but for the Administration as our hospitals will be without supplies starting late this week.
  - FEMA and HHS have been made aware; VA is awaiting resolution from them.

\*Issue has since been resolved
- VA Acquisition Office is working with the VHA's Care in the Community Program Office to establish a Global Nurse Advice Line contract to support increased phone consults for Veteran care in support of Coronavirus.
- VA contracted with Battelle for use of their Critical Care Decontamination Systems (CCDS) to sanitize N95 masks for Brooklyn, Manhattan, and East Orange, NY medical centers. Great partnership with HHS and FDA led to the approval to reuse masks 20x after sanitization. (4/3/20)
- VA has administered more than 18,900 tests and has more than 3,000 additional tests on hand. (4/3/20)
- Contract awarded for Alternate Care Sites-Four (4) 125 bed, soft-sided, portable medical structure. Awaiting delivery and selection of sites. (4/3/20)
- Contract awarded for Mobile Field Hospital. Awaiting delivery and selection of site. (4/3/20)
- National Acquisition Center's (NAC) Service & Distribution Center is providing additional warehouse space for VHA ordered and FEMA provided PPE products; VHA to identify space required and delivery schedules. (4/6/20)
- VA was prepared to accept a donation of 1 million N-95 masks and other PPE from Salesforce. However, FEMA General Counsel determined that the donation was too large for VA to accept.

Secretary Wilkie sent a formal letter to FEMA Administrator asking for authority to accept the donation OR purchase the materials directly. (4/9/20)

- VA awarded an \$8M urgent sole source contract to SDV Office Systems for 97 Tablo® Helodialysis Systems for treating patients with COVID-19 infection. The contractor will deliver as many units as possible before July 31, 2020. The need is particularly pressing for patients with end-stage kidney disease being treated with intermittent hemodialysis (HD). (4/10/20)
- VA request to POTUS for Advanced Payment Authority was approved and signed by POTUS. (4/11/20)
- VA completed a temporary delegation which will apply to the Federal Supply Schedule for Healthcare Staffing Services' ceiling price determination for field contracting officers to use. This delegation, which is available for use until July 1, 2020, will provide immediate nursing staff augmentation for our medical centers. (4/11/20)
- VA reported to OIG regarding a potential case of price gouging. DOJ issued a press release on April 10th concerning the arrest of Christopher Parris, who attempted to sell VA \$750 million of nonexistent masks and other PPE: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/georgia-man-arrested-attempting-defraud-department-veterans-affairs-multimillion-dollar-covid>
- VA has partnered with Facebook to provide more than 7,400 Facebook portal devices. The American Red Cross Military Veteran Caregiver Network will store and ship the devices to qualifying Veterans in pairs. Devices are available today (4/15/2020) for Veterans and their caregivers and families to reduce isolation, improve mental health, wellness, and social connectedness at home. (4/15/20)
- VA acquired the former Garland-Baylor, Scott & White hospital, April 3, to increase its capacity to care for Veterans and support the department's response to COVID-19. The 470,000 square foot facility was donated by Baylor, Scott & White and will eventually serve as an outpatient and specialty care clinic within the VA North Texas Health Care System. The hospital will be able to open Monday April 20. (4/17/20)
- VA National Acquisition Center FSS coordinated with National Association of State Procurement Officials (NAPSO) authorizing State and Local governments to procure Covid-19 support using FSS vendors/contracts. (4/17/20)
- The Strategic Acquisition Center awarded a purchase order for 5 million, 3-ply disposable medical masks (non-N95) valued at \$2.8M. The contract was signed on April 22, 2020. (4/23/2020)
- VA may now utilize the contract HHS funded through DLA to receive N95 mask decontamination and transportation services from Battelle without reimbursing HHS (no cost to supplemental funding). (4/24/20)
- On 5/4/20, the Strategic Acquisition Center awarded a contract to Hanes for 2.4M cloth masks valued at \$1.9M. This contract has ten optional Contract Line Item Number (CLINs) with the possibility to supply ten million additional masks. (5/5/20)
- On 5/1/20, the National Acquisition Center's Federal Supply Schedule Service (FSS) awarded a contract for COVID-19 testing to Eurofins Viracor. The vendor offers the following capacity: 10,000 daily COVID-19 testing to VA nationwide. (5/6/20)
- VA will be accepting a donation of 800,000 face shields from Apple. The shipment should arrive in the next two weeks. (5/6/20)
- VA successfully accepted 500,000 masks from the Republic of Korea (ROK) on 5/12/2020. This donation will help support our efforts to ensure Veterans and Employee safety as we continue to combat COVID-19. (5/12/2020)
- Strategic Acquisition Center (SAC) awarded a contract to M. Hidary and Company for 1M Level II Gowns valued at \$7.12M.
- VA's National Acquisition Center's (NAC) Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) Service awarded a new COVID-19 antibody test (SARS-CoV-2-SEROLOGY (COVID19) Antibody (IGG), Immunoassay) contract

to Quest Diagnostics. This contract became effective May 13, 2020 and it has the capacity to perform 150,000 tests per night. (5/18/2020)



## Employees and Contractors COVID-19 Confirmed Positives

as of 4 June 2020, 1100 ET

Source: Administration / Staff Offices, VHA Health Operations Center

A/SO	Location	Facility	Total	Change
BVA	Washington, DC	VACO	0	-2
NCA	Long Island, NY	Long Island National Cemetery	1	
NCA	Riverside, CA	Riverside National Cemetery	1	
OGC	Las Vegas, NV	Pacific District at VAMC	1	
OIG	Los Angeles, CA	OIG	1	
OIT	Birmingham, AL	Birmingham VAMC	1	
OIT	Bossier City, LA	ITOPS-Bossier City	1	
OIT	Chicago, IL	ITOPS-Edward Hines, Jr VAMC ITOPS-Multiple locations	2	
OIT	Encinitas, CA	SO – Remote Employee	1	
OIT	Gainesville, FL	Malcolm Randall VAMC	1	
OIT	New York City, NY	ITOPS-Bronx (1) ITOPS-Brooklyn (1)	2	
OIT	San Diego, CA	San Diego VAMC	2	
OIT	Washington, DC	VACO – OIT/ITRM (1) VACO – AMO (1)	2	
OALC	Washington, DC	OALC/VACO Contractor	1	
OM	Washington, DC	VACO – OM	1	
OPIA	Washington, DC	VACO – OPIA	1	
VBA	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta RO	1	
VBA	Buffalo, NY	Buffalo RO	1	
VBA	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore RO	1	
VBA	Cleveland, OH	Cleveland RO	1	
VBA	Jackson, MI	VBA Central Office*	1	
VBA	Milwaukee, WI	Milwaukee RO	1	
VBA	New York City, NY	New York RO	3	
VBA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia RO VBA Central Office*	2	
VBA	St. Louis, MO	St. Louis RO	1	
VBA	St. Paul, MN	St. Paul RO	2	
VBA	Washington, DC	NCR RO (1) VBA Central Office – OFO (1)	2	
VEO	Salt Lake City, UT	White House Veterans Line	3	
VEO	Shepherdstown, WV	White House Veterans Line	1	
VHA	Albany, NY	Albany Stratton VAMC	1	
VHA	Albuquerque, NM	Raymond G. Murphy VAMC	0	-1
VHA	Alexandria, LA	Alexandria HCS	8	+1
VHA	Amarillo, TX	Thomas E Creek VAMC	2	
VHA	Ann Arbor, MI	Ann Arbor HCS	2	
VHA	Asheville, NC	Charles George VAMC	1	
VHA	Augusta, GA	Charlie Norwood VAMC	1	+1
VHA	Aurora, CO	Rocky Mountain Regional VAMC	2	
VHA	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore VAMC	35	+3
VHA	Bath, NY	Bath VAMC	2	

## Employees and Contractors COVID-19 Confirmed Positives

as of 4 June 2020, 1100 ET

Source: Administration / Staff Offices, VHA Health Operations Center

VHA	Battle Creek, MI	Battle Creek VAMC	1	-2
VHA	Bay Pines, FL	CW Bill Young VAMC	10	
VHA	Bedford, MA	Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial VAMC	6	
VHA	Birmingham, AL	Birmingham VAMC	21	-7
VHA	Boise, ID	Boise VAMC	1	
VHA	Boston, MA	Jamaica Plain VAMC	5	-31
VHA	Buffalo, NY	Buffalo VAMC	5	
VHA	Chicago, IL	Jesse Brown VAMC (12)(-1) Capt James A. Lovell VAMC (22) Edward Hines Jr VAMC (3)(-1)	37	-2
VHA	Chillicothe, OH	Chillicothe VAMC	1	
VHA	Cincinnati, OH	Cincinnati VAMC	1	-1
VHA	Cleveland, OH	Cleveland VAMC	6	+1
VHA	Coatesville, PA	Coatesville VAMC	7	-3
VHA	Columbia, SC	Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn VAMC	3	
VHA	Dallas, TX	Dallas VAMC	65	
VHA	Dayton, OH	Dayton VAMC	4	-1
VHA	Des Moines, IA	VA Central Iowa Health Care System	5	
VHA	Detroit, MI	John D. Dingell VAMC	2	
VHA	Dublin, GA	Carl Vinson VAMC	2	
VHA	Durham, NC	Durham VA Health Care System	1	
VHA	East Orange, NJ	New Jersey HCS	25	-1
VHA	Fargo, ND	Fargo VAMC	7	
VHA	Fayetteville, NC	Fayetteville VAMC	4	+1
VHA	Gainesville, FL	Malcom Randall VA Medical Center	12	+1
VHA	Hampton, VA	Hampton VAMC	2	
VHA	Harlingen, TX	Harlingen VA Clinic	2	
VHA	Houston, TX	Michael E. DeBakey VAMC	6	-1
VHA	Iowa City, IA	Iowa City VAMC	1	
VHA	Jackson, MS	G.V. Sonny Montgomery VAMC	1	
VHA	Kansas City, MO	Kansas City VAMC	2	
VHA	Las Vegas, NV	Southern Nevada HCA	2	-1
VHA	Lexington, KY	Lexington VA Health Care System - Franklin R. Sousley Campus	3	-1
VHA	Little Rock, AR	Central Arkansas Health Care System	9	-3
VHA	Loma Linda, CA	Loma Linda HCS	7	
VHA	Long Beach, CA	Long Beach HCS	6	
VHA	Los Angeles, CA	Greater Los Angeles Health Care System	3	
VHA	Madison, WI	William S. Middleton VAMC	2	-1
VHA	Marion, IL	Marion VAMC	2	
VHA	Martinsburg, WV	Martinsburg VAMC	3	+1
VHA	Mather, CA	Sacramento VAMC	1	+1

## Employees and Contractors COVID-19 Confirmed Positives

as of 4 June 2020, 1100 ET

Source: Administration / Staff Offices, VHA Health Operations Center

VHA	Memphis, TN	Memphis VAMC	4	
VHA	Miami, FL	Miami VA HCS	4	
VHA	Milwaukee, WI	Milwaukee VAMC	4	
VHA	Minneapolis, MN	Minneapolis HCS	5	
VHA	Montgomery, AL	Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System (CAVHCS)- West Campus	5	-1
VHA	Montrose, NY	Hudson Valley HCS	2	
VHA	Nashville, TN	Tennessee Valley HCS	6	+1
VHA	New Orleans, LA	New Orleans VAMC	188	
VHA	New York City, NY	James J. Peters VAMC (101)(+1) NY Harbor HCS – Manhattan Campus (138) Northport VAMC (23)(-1)	262	
VHA	Northampton, MA	Central Western Massachusetts HCS	3	
VHA	Oklahoma City, OK	Oklahoma City HCS	4	
VHA	Omaha, NE	Nebraska Iowa HCS	20	+1
VHA	Orlando, FL	Orlando VA HCS	2	
VHA	Palo Alto, CA	Palo Alto VAMC	1	
VHA	Philadelphia, PA	Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VAMC	3	-1
VHA	Phoenix, AZ	Phoenix Health Care System	6	
VHA	Pittsburgh, PA	Pittsburgh VA Medical Center-University Drive	3	
VHA	Poplar Bluff, MO	John J. Pershing VAMC	2	
VHA	Portland, OR	Portland VAMC	16	-7
VHA	Providence, RI	Providence VAMC	2	+1
VHA	Reno, NV	VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System	5	
VHA	Richmond, VA	Hunter Holmes McGuire VAMC	6	-1
VHA	Roseburg, OR	Roseburg Health Care System	1	
VHA	Salem, VA	Salem VAMC	2	
VHA	Salisbury, NC	W. G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center	2	
VHA	Salt Lake City, UT	George E Wahlen VAMC	3	
VHA	San Antonio, TX	Audie L. Murphy VAMC	18	
VHA	San Diego, CA	San Diego VAMC	3	
VHA	San Francisco, CA	San Francisco Health Care System	3	
VHA	San Juan, PR	San Juan VAMC	6	
VHA	Seattle, WA	Puget Sound Health Care System	6	-2
VHA	Sheridan, WY	Sheridan VAMC	2	
VHA	Shreveport, LA	Overton Brooks VA Medical Center	10	-1
VHA	St. Cloud, MN	St. Cloud VAMC	1	
VHA	St. Louis, MO	St Louis HCS	5	+1
VHA	Syracuse, NY	Syracuse VAMC	14	
VHA	Tampa, FL	Tampa VAMC	1	
VHA	Temple, TX	Olin E. Teague VAMC	3	

## Employees and Contractors COVID-19 Confirmed Positives

as of 4 June 2020, 1100 ET

Source: Administration / Staff Offices, VHA Health Operations Center

VHA	Topeka, KS	Eastern Kansas Health Care System	1	
VHA	Tucson, AZ	Tucson VAMC	2	
VHA	Tuscaloosa, AL	Tuscaloosa VAMC	14	
VHA	Washington, DC	Washington DC VAMC	23	-4
VHA	West Palm Beach, FL	West Palm Beach VAMC	3	
VHA	Wilkes-Barre, PA	Wilkes-Barre VAMC	2	
VHA	Wilmington, DE	Wilmington VAMC	4	-1
		Total:	<b>1,058</b>	<b>-62</b>

Red numbers indicate recovered or released and return to duty.

OIT additions reflect corrections; no new cases.

\* Geographically separated employees  
VBA Employees assigned to VBA Central Office.

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June 4, 2020

## Veteran Cases

Parent Facility (Prior Reporting)	Location (New Detail)	Total	VA Outpatient	VA Inpatient, ICU	VA Inpatient, CLC	VA Inpatient, Acute	Deceased Other	Deceased Inpatient	Convalescent
		12,721	919	123	14	243	518	730	10,174
(402) Togus ME	(402) Togus VA Medical Center	20	2	1				1	16
(405) White River Junction VT	(405) White River Junction VA Medical Center	10					1	1	8
(436) Montana HCS (Fort Harrison MT)	(436) Fort Harrison VA Medical Center	5					1		4
(437) Fargo, ND (CACHE 5.0)	(437) Fargo VA Medical Center	38	7			1	11	2	17
(438) Sioux Falls SD (CACHE 5.0)	(438) Royal C. Johnson Veterans' Memorial Hospital	50	2	1		1	2		44
(442) Cheyenne WY	(442) Cheyenne VA Medical Center	15							15
(459) VA Pacific Islands HCS (Honolulu HI)	(459) Spark M. Matsunaga Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	10							10
(459) VA Pacific Islands HCS (Honolulu HI)	(459GB) Hilo VA Clinic	1							1
(460) Wilmington DE	(460) Wilmington VA Medical Center	118	4				9	1	104
(460) Wilmington DE	(460HG) Cumberland County VA Clinic	1							1
(460) Wilmington DE	(642) Corporal Michael J. Crescenzo Department of	1							1

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	Veterans Affairs Medical Center								
<b>(463) Alaska VAHSRO (Anchorage AK)</b>	(463) Anchorage VA Medical Center	10	2						8
<b>(501) New Mexico HCS (Albuquerque NM)</b>	(501) Raymond G. Murphy Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	50	4	1		1	4	4	36
<b>(502) Alexandria, LA</b>	(502) Alexandria VA Medical Center	45	3			1	4		37
<b>(503) Altoona, PA</b>	(503) James E. Van Zandt Veterans' Administration Medical Center	6							6
<b>(504) Amarillo HCS (Amarillo TX)</b>	(504) Thomas E. Creek Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	23	3						20
<b>(506) Ann Arbor, MI</b>	(506) Ann Arbor VA Medical Center	108	7	1		3	2	9	86
<b>(506) Ann Arbor, MI</b>	(506GA) Toledo VA Clinic	2							2
<b>(508) Atlanta, GA</b>	(508) Atlanta VA Medical Center	232	11			4	5	13	199
<b>(508) Atlanta, GA</b>	(508QF) Atlanta VA Clinic	1							1
<b>(509) Augusta, GA</b>	(509) Charlie Norwood Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	53	4	1		4		6	38
<b>(512) Maryland HCS (Baltimore MD)</b>	(512) Baltimore VA Medical Center	186	20	3		9	9	5	140
<b>(515) Battle Creek, MI</b>	(515) Battle Creek VA Medical Center	53	6				8		39
<b>(515) Battle Creek, MI</b>	(515BY) Wyoming VA Clinic	3	1						2
<b>(516) Bay Pines,FL</b>	(516) C.W. Bill Young Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	45	4	2			2		37
<b>(516) Bay Pines,FL</b>	(516BZ) Lee County VA Clinic	4							4

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(517) Beckley, WV	(517) Beckley VA Medical Center	1							1
(518) Bedford, MA		3							3
(518) Bedford, MA	(518) Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans' Hospital	163	7		1		3	27	125
(518) Bedford, MA	(518GA) Lynn VA Clinic	1	1						
(518) Bedford, MA	(518GE) Gloucester VA Clinic	1							1
(519) West Texas HCS (Big Spring TX)	(519) George H. O'Brien, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	10	1				1		8
(520) Biloxi, MS	(520) Biloxi VA Medical Center	18	1			1	1	1	14
(520) Biloxi, MS	(520GA) Mobile VA Clinic	3							3
(520) Biloxi, MS	(520GB) Panama City Beach VA Clinic	1	1						
(520) Biloxi, MS	(520GC) Eglin Air Force Base VA Clinic	1							1
(521) Birmingham, AL	(521) Birmingham VA Medical Center	65	14	1		1	2	6	41
(521) Birmingham, AL	(521GJ) Birmingham VA Clinic	1							1
(521) Birmingham, AL	(619) Central Alabama VA Medical Center-Montgomery	1							1
(523) Boston HCS (Boston)	(518) Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans' Hospital	1							1
(523) Boston HCS (Boston)	(523) Jamaica Plain VA Medical Center	176	11			1	27	6	131
(523) Boston HCS (Boston)	(523A4) West Roxbury VA Medical Center	102	4	1		3	4	18	72
(523) Boston HCS (Boston)	(523A5) Brockton VA Medical Center	78	2			1	1	6	68
(523) Boston HCS (Boston)	(523BY) Lowell VA Clinic	25	1						24
(523) Boston HCS (Boston)	(523BZ) Causeway VA Clinic	2							2



FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(523) Boston HCS (Boston)	(523GC) Quincy VA Clinic	1							1
(523) Boston HCS (Boston)	(523GD) Plymouth VA Clinic	1							1
(523) Boston HCS (Boston)	(631BY) Springfield VA Clinic	1							1
(526) Bronx, NY	(526) James J. Peters Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	508	6	2	1	6	15	63	415
(526) Bronx, NY	(526GA) White Plains VA Clinic	2							2
(526) Bronx, NY	(526GD) Thomas P. Noonan Jr. Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic	1							1
(526) Bronx, NY	(526QA) Bronx VA Mobile Clinic	3							3
(528) Upstate New York HCS		3						1	2
(528) Upstate New York HCS	(528) Buffalo VA Medical Center	199	4			8	16	14	157
(528) Upstate New York HCS	(528A5) Canandaigua VA Medical Center	2							2
(528) Upstate New York HCS	(528A6) Bath VA Medical Center	5				2			3
(528) Upstate New York HCS	(528A7) Syracuse VA Medical Center	15	1	1		1		3	9
(528) Upstate New York HCS	(528A8) Samuel S. Stratton Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	40				2		7	31
(528) Upstate New York HCS	(528GE) Rochester Westfall VA Clinic	2	2						
(528) Upstate New York HCS	(528GQ) Lackawanna VA Clinic	1							1
(528) Upstate New York HCS	(528QC) Rochester Calkins VA Clinic	6	2						4
(529) Butler, PA	(529) Abie Abraham VA Clinic	12					3		9



FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(529) Butler, PA	(529GA) Michael A. Marzano Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic	1							1
(531) Boise, ID	(531) Boise VA Medical Center	16	4					1	11
(534) Charleston, SC	(534) Ralph H. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	24	3	1					20
(534) Charleston, SC	(534GB) Myrtle Beach VA Clinic	1							1
(534) Charleston, SC	(534GF) Trident 1 VA Clinic	2	1						1
(534) Charleston, SC	(534QC) Charleston VA Clinic	1							1
(537) Chicago (Westside), IL		2							2
(537) Chicago (Westside), IL	(537) Jesse Brown Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	311	18	4	1	7	2	18	261
(537) Chicago (Westside), IL	(537BY) Adam Benjamin Jr., Veterans' Administration Outpatient Clinic	1	1						
(538) Chillicothe, OH	(538) Chillicothe VA Medical Center	11						1	10
(539) Cincinnati, OH	(539) Cincinnati VA Medical Center	56	4			2	1	1	48
(540) Clarksburg, WV	(540) Louis A. Johnson Veterans' Administration Medical Center	4							4
(541) Cleveland, OH		1						1	
(541) Cleveland, OH	(541) Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	236	20	2		3	27	5	179
(541) Cleveland, OH	(541BY) Canton VA Clinic	2							2
(541) Cleveland, OH	(541BZ) Youngstown VA Clinic	3							3

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(541) Cleveland, OH	(541GD) David F. Winder Department of Veterans Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic	2							2
(541) Cleveland, OH	(541GF) Lake County VA Clinic	1							1
(541) Cleveland, OH	(541GG) Akron VA Clinic	1							1
(541) Cleveland, OH	(541GI) Warren VA Clinic	1							1
(541) Cleveland, OH	(541GK) Ravenna VA Clinic	1	1						
(541) Cleveland, OH	(541GL) Parma VA Clinic	3	1						2
(541) Cleveland, OH	(541QA) Summit County VA Clinic	1							1
(542) Coatesville, PA		1							1
(542) Coatesville, PA	(542) Coatesville VA Medical Center	67	9				10		48
(542) Coatesville, PA	(542GA) Delaware County VA Clinic	1							1
(544) Columbia, SC	(544) Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	144	8			1	5	4	126
(544) Columbia, SC	(544BZ) Greenville VA Clinic	8							8
(544) Columbia, SC	(544GC) Rock Hill VA Clinic	3	1						2
(544) Columbia, SC	(544GD) Anderson VA Clinic	2							2
(544) Columbia, SC	(544GF) Sumter VA Clinic	2							2
(544) Columbia, SC	(544GG) Spartanburg VA Clinic	1	1						
(546) Miami, FL	(546) Bruce W. Carter Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	138	21			8		6	103

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(546) Miami, FL	(546BZ) William "Bill" Kling Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic	3							3
(546) Miami, FL	(546GD) Pembroke Pines VA Clinic	1							1
(548) West Palm Beach, FL	(548) West Palm Beach VA Medical Center	82	12			2	6	4	58
(548) West Palm Beach, FL	(548GB) Delray Beach VA Clinic	2	1						1
(548) West Palm Beach, FL	(548GD) Boca Raton VA Clinic	1							1
(549) North Texas HCS (Dallas TX)	(549) Dallas VA Medical Center	100	7	1		5	2	5	80
(550) Illiana HCS (Danville IL)	(550) Danville VA Medical Center	7							7
(552) Dayton, OH	(552) Dayton VA Medical Center	26	3				2		21
(552) Dayton, OH	(552GA) Middletown VA Clinic	1	1						
(552) Dayton, OH	(552GC) Richmond VA Clinic	1							1
(553) Detroit, MI	(553) John D. Dingell Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	255	6	1	1	1	8	26	212
(553) Detroit, MI	(553BU) Detroit VA Domiciliary	3						1	2
(554) Eastern Colorado HCS (Denver CO)	(554) Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center	246	9			2	16	5	214
(554) Eastern Colorado HCS (Denver CO)	(554GE) PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic	11	2						9
(556) North Chicago, IL	(556) Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center	106	5	2		1	1	2	95

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(557) Dublin, GA	(509) Charlie Norwood Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	1							1
(557) Dublin, GA	(557) Carl Vinson Veterans' Administration Medical Center	65	9						56
(558) Durham, NC	(558) Durham VA Medical Center	77	8			7	4	1	57
(558) Durham, NC	(558GA) Greenville VA Clinic	7	1				1		5
(558) Durham, NC	(558GB) Raleigh VA Clinic	4	2						2
(561) New Jersey HCS (East Orange)		2							2
(561) New Jersey HCS (East Orange)	(561) East Orange VA Medical Center	441	5	5		8	14	38	371
(561) New Jersey HCS (East Orange)	(561A4) Lyons VA Medical Center	244			2		10	25	207
(561) New Jersey HCS (East Orange)	(561GD) Hackensack VA Clinic	3							3
(561) New Jersey HCS (East Orange)	(561GE) Jersey City VA Clinic	1							1
(561) New Jersey HCS (East Orange)	(561GH) Morristown VA Clinic	1							1
(562) Erie, PA	(562) Erie VA Medical Center	8	2				1		5
(564) Fayetteville, AR	(564) Fayetteville VA Medical Center	10	4					2	4
(565) Fayetteville, NC	(565) Fayetteville VA Medical Center	77	2			1	5		69
(565) Fayetteville, NC	(565GC) Wilmington VA Clinic	1							1
(565) Fayetteville, NC	(565GD) Hamlet VA Clinic	1							1
(565) Fayetteville, NC	(565GE) Robeson County VA Clinic	3							3

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(565) Fayetteville, NC	(565GL) Cumberland County VA Clinic	6							6
(568) Black Hills HCS (Fort Meade SD) (CACHE 5.0)	(568) Fort Meade VA Medical Center	4	2						2
(570) Central California HCS (Fresno CA)	(570) Fresno VA Medical Center	29	5	2		3			19
(573) N. Florida/S. Georgia HCS (Gainesville FL)	(573) Malcom Randall Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	34	5	1		2	1		25
(573) N. Florida/S. Georgia HCS (Gainesville FL)	(573A4) Lake City VA Medical Center	12	2	1					9
(575) Grand Junction, CO	(575) Grand Junction VA Medical Center	5					2		3
(578) Hines, IL	(578) Edward Hines Junior Hospital	170	6			8	1	15	140
(580) Houston, TX	(580) Michael E. DeBakey Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	143	10	1		3	3	6	120
(580) Houston, TX	(580GG) Richmond VA Clinic	1	1						
(581) Huntington, WV	(581) Hershel "Woody" Williams VA Medical Center	11	1	1				1	8
(583) Indianapolis, IN	(583) Richard L. Roudebush Veterans' Administration Medical Center	282	10	1		7	14	23	227
(583) Indianapolis, IN	(583GD) Indianapolis West VA Clinic	1							1
(585) Iron Mountain, MI	(585) Oscar G. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility	2							2
(586) Jackson, MS	(586) G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	100	16	1		4	5	3	71



FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(589) VA Heartland West (Kansas City MO)	(589) Kansas City VA Medical Center	77	8			2	4	1	62
(589) VA Heartland West (Kansas City MO)	(589A4) Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital	11	3	3		1		1	3
(589) VA Heartland West (Kansas City MO)	(589A5) Colmery-O'Neil Veterans' Administration Medical Center	11	1						10
(589) VA Heartland West (Kansas City MO)	(589A6) Dwight D. Eisenhower Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	12	1	1					10
(589) VA Heartland West (Kansas City MO)	(589A7) Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center	10		1				1	8
(589) VA Heartland West (Kansas City MO)	(589GB) Belton VA Clinic	2							2
(589) VA Heartland West (Kansas City MO)	(589GW) Salina VA Clinic	1							1
(589) VA Heartland West (Kansas City MO)	(589JC) Shawnee VA Clinic	2	1						1
(589) VA Heartland West (Kansas City MO)	(589JF) Honor VA Clinic	3							3
(590) Hampton, VA		2							2
(590) Hampton, VA	(590) Hampton VA Medical Center	58	4	3		2	2	2	45
(593) Southern Nevada HCS (Las Vegas NV)	(593) North Las Vegas VA Medical Center	43	5	2			1		35
(593) Southern Nevada HCS (Las Vegas NV)	(593GD) Northwest Las Vegas VA Clinic	4	1						3
(593) Southern Nevada HCS (Las Vegas NV)	(593GE) Southeast Las Vegas VA Clinic	2							2

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(593) Southern Nevada HCS (Las Vegas NV)	(593GG) Northeast Las Vegas VA Clinic	12							12
(593) Southern Nevada HCS (Las Vegas NV)	(593GH) Master Chief Petty Officer Jesse Dean VA Clinic	1							1
(595) Lebanon, PA	(595) Lebanon VA Medical Center	116	11				11	3	91
(595) Lebanon, PA	(595GC) Lancaster County VA Clinic	1							1
(596) Lexington, KY	(596) Franklin R. Sousley Campus	1	1						
(596) Lexington, KY	(596A4) Troy Bowling Campus	9	2						7
(596) Lexington, KY	(596GB) Morehead VA Clinic	1							1
(598) Central Arkansas HCS (Little Rock AR)	(598) John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans' Hospital	42	1	2		1	1	4	33
(598) Central Arkansas HCS (Little Rock AR)	(598A0) Eugene J. Towbin Healthcare Center	2	1						1
(600) Long Beach HCS (Long Beach CA)		2							2
(600) Long Beach HCS (Long Beach CA)	(600) Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center	108	12			4	2	2	88
(603) Louisville, KY	(603) Robley Rex Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	71	2	2			1	6	60
(603) Louisville, KY	(603GB) New Albany VA Clinic	3	1						2
(603) Louisville, KY	(603GC) Shively VA Clinic	1							1
(603) Louisville, KY	(603GD) Stonybrook VA Clinic	1							1
(603) Louisville, KY	(603GE) Newburg VA Clinic	4							4
(605) Loma Linda, CA	(605) Jerry L. Pettis Memorial Veterans' Hospital	64	19		1	2	1	1	40
(605) Loma Linda, CA	(605BZ) Loma Linda VA Clinic	13							13

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(605) Loma Linda, CA	(605GD) Corona VA Clinic	1							1
(607) Madison, WI	(607) William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans' Hospital	25	6	1				3	15
(607) Madison, WI	(607HA) Rockford VA Clinic	1	1						
(608) Manchester, NH	(608) Manchester VA Medical Center	46	13				5		28
(610) Northern Indiana HCS (Marion, IN)	(610) Marion VA Medical Center	34	4						30
(610) Northern Indiana HCS (Marion, IN)	(610A4) Fort Wayne VA Medical Center	18	1	1		1		4	11
(610) Northern Indiana HCS (Marion, IN)	(610GC) Goshen VA Clinic	1							1
(612) Northern California HCS (Martinez CA)	(612) Martinez VA Community Living Center	9	1						8
(612) Northern California HCS (Martinez CA)	(612A4) Sacramento VA Medical Center	14						3	11
(612) Northern California HCS (Martinez CA)	(612GF) Martinez VA Medical Center	10	2						8
(612) Northern California HCS (Martinez CA)	(612GH) McClellan VA Clinic	3							3
(612) Northern California HCS (Martinez CA)	(640) Palo Alto VA Medical Center	1							1
(613) Martinsburg, WV	(613) Martinsburg VA Medical Center	71	7	2		3	6	3	50
(613) Martinsburg, WV	(613GC) Stephens City VA Clinic	1		1					
(614) Memphis, TN	(614) Memphis VA Medical Center	44	1			1		5	37
(618) Minneapolis, MN (CACHE 5.0)	(618) Minneapolis VA Medical Center	169	19			6	20	12	112
(618) Minneapolis, MN (CACHE 5.0)	(618GI) Northwest Metro VA Clinic	1							1

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(619) Central Alabama HCS (Montgomery AL)	(619) Central Alabama VA Medical Center-Montgomery	56	12			3		1	40
(619) Central Alabama HCS (Montgomery AL)	(619A4) Central Alabama VA Medical Center-Tuskegee	3							3
(619) Central Alabama HCS (Montgomery AL)	(619GF) Central Alabama Montgomery VA Clinic	1							1
(619) Central Alabama HCS (Montgomery AL)	(619QA) Dothan 2 VA Clinic	1							1
(620) Hudson Valley HCS (Castle Point, Montrose)		3							3
(620) Hudson Valley HCS (Castle Point, Montrose)	(620) Franklin Delano Roosevelt Hospital	122	1				1	7	113
(620) Hudson Valley HCS (Castle Point, Montrose)	(620A4) Castle Point VA Medical Center	56					2	1	53
(621) Mountain Home, TN	(621) James H. Quillen Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	14		1					13
(621) Mountain Home, TN	(621BY) William C. Tallent Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic	2							2
(621) Mountain Home, TN	(621GI) Dannie A. Carr Veterans Outpatient Clinic	2							2
(621) Mountain Home, TN	(621GJ) Bristol VA Clinic	2							2
(623) Muskogee, OK	(623) Jack C. Montgomery Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	19					3	2	14
(623) Muskogee, OK	(623BY) Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic	9	2						7
(623) Muskogee, OK	(623GA) McAlester VA Clinic	3							3
(623) Muskogee, OK	(623GB) Vinita VA Clinic	2							2
(626) Tennessee Valley HCS (Nashville TN)	(626) Nashville VA Medical Center	51	3	1		1		2	44

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(626) Tennessee Valley HCS (Nashville TN)	(626A4) Alvin C. York Veterans' Administration Medical Center	15	2			1		1	11
(629) New Orleans, LA	(629) New Orleans VA Medical Center	496	3	1			7	35	450
(629) New Orleans, LA	(629BY) Baton Rouge VA Clinic	26					3		23
(629) New Orleans, LA	(629GA) Houma VA Clinic	1							1
(629) New Orleans, LA	(629GB) Hammond VA Clinic	6							6
(629) New Orleans, LA	(629GC) Slidell VA Clinic	1	1						
(629) New Orleans, LA	(629GD) St. John VA Clinic	1							1
(629) New Orleans, LA	(629QA) Baton Rouge South VA Clinic	1							1
(630) New York HHS (Brooklyn)		81			4	1		5	71
(630) New York HHS (Brooklyn)	(526) James J. Peters Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	1							1
(630) New York HHS (Brooklyn)	(561) East Orange VA Medical Center	1							1
(630) New York HHS (Brooklyn)	(630) Manhattan VA Medical Center	286	14	2		4	6	32	228
(630) New York HHS (Brooklyn)	(630A4) Brooklyn VA Medical Center	196	3	1		2	1	36	153
(630) New York HHS (Brooklyn)	(630A5) St. Albans VA Medical Center	8							8
(630) New York HHS (Brooklyn)	(675) Orlando VA Medical Center	1							1
(631) Northampton, MA	(631) Edward P. Boland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	74	5				5		64
(631) Northampton, MA	(631BY) Springfield VA Clinic	8	1				1		6



FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(631) Northampton, MA	(631GE) Worcester VA Clinic	7	1						6
(632) Northport, NY	(632) Northport VA Medical Center	229	2			2	11	20	194
(632) Northport, NY	(632HD) Patchogue VA Clinic	1							1
(635) Oklahoma City, OK	(635) Oklahoma City VA Medical Center	37	1	1			2	3	30
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636) Omaha VA Medical Center	128	27			3	10	7	81
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636A4) Grand Island VA Medical Center	11					1		10
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636A5) Lincoln VA Clinic	4	1						3
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636A6) Des Moines VA Medical Center	46	6	1		2		5	32
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636A8) Iowa City VA Medical Center	21	5					2	14
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636GD) Marshalltown VA Clinic	2							2
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636GF) Quad Cities VA Clinic	7	1						6
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636GI) Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic	2							2
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636GJ) Dubuque VA Clinic	1							1
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636GK) Fort Dodge VA Clinic	1	1						
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636GS) Ottumwa VA Clinic	1							1
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636GT) Sterling VA Clinic	1							1
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636GW) Coralville VA Clinic	1	1						

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(637) Asheville, NC	(637) Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	31		2		3	4	4	18
(637) Asheville, NC	(637GB) Rutherford County VA Clinic	1							1
(640) Palo Alto HCS (Palo Alto CA)		2							2
(640) Palo Alto HCS (Palo Alto CA)	(640) Palo Alto VA Medical Center	40	3			2	3	4	28
(640) Palo Alto HCS (Palo Alto CA)	(640A4) Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Livermore	2							2
(640) Palo Alto HCS (Palo Alto CA)	(640GC) Fremont VA Clinic	1							1
(640) Palo Alto HCS (Palo Alto CA)	(640HA) Stockton VA Clinic	1							1
(640) Palo Alto HCS (Palo Alto CA)	(640HB) Modesto VA Clinic	2							2
(642) Philadelphia, PA	(642) Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	445	26	1		3	15	15	385
(644) Phoenix, AZ	(644) Carl T. Hayden Veterans' Administration Medical Center	99	24	2		3	5	4	61
(644) Phoenix, AZ	(644BY) Southeast VA Clinic	1							1
(644) Phoenix, AZ	(644GA) Northwest VA Clinic	1							1
(644) Phoenix, AZ	(644GH) Phoenix Midtown VA Clinic	1							1
(644) Phoenix, AZ	(644QA) Phoenix VA Clinic	2	2						
(646) Pittsburgh HCS (Pittsburgh PA)		1							1
(646) Pittsburgh HCS (Pittsburgh PA)	(646) Pittsburgh VA Medical Center-University Drive	53	2	1		1	1	2	46

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<b>(646) Pittsburgh HCS (Pittsburgh PA)</b>	(646A4) H. John Heinz III Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	1							1
<b>(648) Portland, OR (CACHE 5.0)</b>	(648) Portland VA Medical Center	36	3	2			2	3	26
<b>(648) Portland, OR (CACHE 5.0)</b>	(648A4) Portland VA Medical Center-Vancouver	2	1						1
<b>(649) Northern Arizona HCS (Prescott AZ)</b>	(649) Bob Stump Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	16	4						12
<b>(650) Providence, RI</b>	(650) Providence VA Medical Center	118	5	1			14	3	95
<b>(652) Richmond, VA</b>	(652) Hunter Holmes McGuire Hospital	122	26	6			4	5	81
<b>(653) Roseburg HCS (Roseburg OR)</b>	(653) Roseburg VA Medical Center	4	1						3
<b>(654) Sierra Nevada HCS (Reno NV)</b>	(654) Ioannis A. Lougaris Veterans' Administration Medical Center	25	2	4				3	16
<b>(654) Sierra Nevada HCS (Reno NV)</b>	(654GF) North Reno VA Clinic	1							1
<b>(655) Saginaw, MI</b>	(655) Aleda E. Lutz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	28					1		27
<b>(656) St. Cloud, MN (CACHE 5.0)</b>	(656) St. Cloud VA Medical Center	32	6				1		25
<b>(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)</b>	(657) John Cochran Veterans Hospital	134	10			5	7	8	104
<b>(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)</b>	(657A0) St. Louis VA Medical Center-Jefferson Barracks	9							9
<b>(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)</b>	(657A4) John J. Pershing Veterans' Administration Medical Center	6	2						4

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)	(657A5) Marion VA Medical Center	1							1
(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)	(657GA) St. Clair County VA Clinic	3							3
(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)	(657GB) St. Louis County VA Clinic	2					1		1
(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)	(657GD) St. Charles County VA Clinic	1	1						
(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)	(657GX) Washington Avenue VA Clinic	1							1
(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)	(657GY) Manchester Avenue VA Clinic	3							3
(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)	(657QA) Olive Street VA Clinic	7	1						6
(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)	(657QB) Washington Boulevard VA Clinic	1							1
(658) Salem, VA	(658) Salem VA Medical Center	13	4	1					8
(659) Salisbury, NC	(659) W.G. (Bill) Hefner Salisbury Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	89	3	1			12	3	70
(659) Salisbury, NC	(659BY) Kernersville VA Clinic	9	5						4
(659) Salisbury, NC	(659BZ) South Charlotte VA Clinic	3	2						1
(659) Salisbury, NC	(659GA) North Charlotte VA Clinic	1							1
(660) Salt Lake City HCS (Salt Lake City UT)	(660) George E. Wahlen Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	71	24	2		6		1	38
(662) San Francisco, CA	(662) San Francisco VA Medical Center	25	2	1		1		3	18
(662) San Francisco, CA	(662GA) Santa Rosa VA Clinic	1							1

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(662) San Francisco, CA	(662GF) San Francisco VA Clinic	2							2
(663) Puget Sound HCS (Seattle WA) (CACHE 5.0)	(663) Seattle VA Medical Center	96	6	1		5	7	1	76
(663) Puget Sound HCS (Seattle WA) (CACHE 5.0)	(663A4) American Lake VA Medical Center	11	1						10
(663) Puget Sound HCS (Seattle WA) (CACHE 5.0)	(663GA) Bellevue VA Clinic	1							1
(663) Puget Sound HCS (Seattle WA) (CACHE 5.0)	(663GC) Mount Vernon VA Clinic	1							1
(664) San Diego HCS (San Diego CA)	(664) San Diego VA Medical Center	75	12	3		1	1		58
(664) San Diego HCS (San Diego CA)	(664BY) Mission Valley VA Clinic	7							7
(664) San Diego HCS (San Diego CA)	(664GB) Oceanside VA Clinic	4	1						3
(664) San Diego HCS (San Diego CA)	(664GC) Chula Vista VA Clinic	4	1						3
(666) Sheridan, WY	(666) Sheridan VA Medical Center	1							1
(667) Shreveport, LA	(667) Overton Brooks Veterans' Administration Medical Center	93	2	3		2	1	9	76
(667) Shreveport, LA	(667GB) Monroe VA Clinic	5	1						4
(668) Spokane, WA	(668) Mann-Grandstaff Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	51	2	1		1	1	4	42
(671) South Texas HCS (San Antonio TX)	(671) Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans' Hospital	77	7	2		4		7	57
(671) South Texas HCS (San Antonio TX)	(671GL) New Braunfels VA Clinic	1	1						
(672) San Juan, PR	(672) San Juan VA Medical Center	52							52



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(673) Tampa, FL	(673) James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital	28	1			6		4	17
(673) Tampa, FL	(673BV) Tampa VA Domiciliary	1							1
(673) Tampa, FL	(673BZ) New Port Richey VA Clinic	1							1
(674) Central Texas HCS (Temple TX)	(674) Olin E. Teague Veterans' Center	38	5	3			2		28
(674) Central Texas HCS (Temple TX)	(674BY) Austin VA Clinic	7	2						5
(675) Orlando, FL	(573BY) Jacksonville 1 VA Clinic	1							1
(675) Orlando, FL	(675) Orlando VA Medical Center	72	8	1		1	1	1	60
(675) Orlando, FL	(675GA) Viera VA Clinic	13	1						12
(675) Orlando, FL	(675GB) William V. Chappell, Jr. Veterans' Outpatient Clinic	1	1						
(675) Orlando, FL	(675GD) Deltona VA Clinic	2							2
(675) Orlando, FL	(675GG) Lake Baldwin VA Clinic	4	1						3
(676) Tomah, WI	(676) Tomah VA Medical Center	4							4
(676) Tomah, WI	(676GD) Wisconsin Rapids VA Clinic	1							1
(678) Southern Arizona HCS (Tucson AZ)	(678) Tucson VA Medical Center	55	10			8	1	6	30
(679) Tuscaloosa, AL		1							1
(679) Tuscaloosa, AL	(679) Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center	28	12		3				13
(679) Tuscaloosa, AL	(679GA) Selma VA Clinic	1							1
(687) Walla Walla, WA	(687) Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center	22	5				1		16

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(688) Washington DC	(688) Washington VA Medical Center	416	44	2		11	21	22	316
(688) Washington DC	(688GD) Charlotte Hall VA Clinic	1	1						
(689) Connecticut HCS (Westhaven)	(689) West Haven VA Medical Center	196	8			5	12	6	165
(689) Connecticut HCS (Westhaven)	(689A4) Newington VA Clinic	88	1				3		84
(689) Connecticut HCS (Westhaven)	(689GA) Waterbury VA Clinic	3							3
(689) Connecticut HCS (Westhaven)	(689GB) Stamford VA Clinic	1							1
(689) Connecticut HCS (Westhaven)	(689GD) Winsted VA Clinic	1	1						
(689) Connecticut HCS (Westhaven)	(689GE) Danbury VA Clinic	6	1						5
(689) Connecticut HCS (Westhaven)	(689HC) John J. McGuirk Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic	5							5
(689) Connecticut HCS (Westhaven)	(689QA) Errera VA Clinic	2							2
(691) Greater Los Angeles HCS (Los Angeles CA)		39						1	38
(691) Greater Los Angeles HCS (Los Angeles CA)	(691) West Los Angeles VA Medical Center	67	5	8		3	1	6	44
(691) Greater Los Angeles HCS (Los Angeles CA)	(691A4) Sepulveda VA Medical Center	4	1						3
(691) Greater Los Angeles HCS (Los Angeles CA)	(691GK) San Luis Obispo VA Clinic	1							1
(693) Wilkes-Barre, PA	(693) Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center	90	4	4		4	10	1	67
(693) Wilkes-Barre, PA	(693B4) Allentown VA Clinic	3	1						2

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<b>(693) Wilkes-Barre, PA</b>	(693GG) Northampton County VA Clinic	1							1
<b>(695) Milwaukee, WI</b>	(695) Clement J. Zablocki Veterans' Administration Medical Center	99	8	5		1		6	79
<b>(740) Texas Valley Coastal Bend HCS (Harlingen TX)</b>	(740) Harlingen VA Clinic	17	5				2		10
<b>(740) Texas Valley Coastal Bend HCS (Harlingen TX)</b>	(740GD) Laredo VA Clinic	1							1
<b>(756) El Paso, TX</b>	(756) El Paso VA Clinic	47	3				2		42
<b>(757) Columbus, OH</b>	(757) Chalmers P. Wylie Veterans Outpatient Clinic	51	7				3		41

**From:** Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris)  
**Sent:** Sat, 30 May 2020 20:27:43 +0000  
**To:** Tucker, Brooks  
**Cc:** Powers, Pamela; (b)(6)  
**Subject:** VA\_5.30.20\_COVID 19 Daily Report  
**Attachments:** VA\_5.30.20\_COVID 19 Daily Report.docx

Brooks,

Nothing really here today.

- No new Mission Assignments
- No new Veteran or Employee Case data available today.
- Of note: Based upon typical historical case volumes, VA would have performed approximately 85,000 surgical cases March 18<sup>th</sup> and May 27<sup>th</sup>. Between March 18<sup>th</sup> and May 27<sup>th</sup>, the VA actually performed 19,957 cases in the OR. The projected volume of pending operating room procedures is therefore approximately 65,000 cases which may become an issue as we return to more normal operations

**COVID-19 – Agency Response**  
**5/30/2020**  
**Department of Veterans Affairs**

**Administrative Actions, Waivers, and Other Programmatic Change that Impact Agency Provision of Service or Mission Delivery (Externally Facing)**

- VA has received 45 Mission Assignments during COVID-19, 37 are still active, 8 have been closed
- **Update on FEMA Active VA Mission**
  - VA NY Harbor: 111 patients, 79 discharges, 18 deaths
  - VA New Jersey: 31 patients, 19 discharge, 7 deaths
  - VA San Francisco: 1 discharge, no deaths
  - VA Miami: 1 discharge, no deaths
  - VA Ann Arbor: 36 patients, 21 discharges, 6 deaths
  - Detroit: 22 patients, 15 discharge, 7 death
  - Albuquerque: 6 patients from Navajo Nation, previously in Gallup IHS facility. 4 discharged, 1 death.
  - VA Chicago (Hines, Jesse Brown Marion) – 24 patients, 6 discharges, 1 death
  - Spokane, WA – 2 patients, no discharges, no deaths
  - Hew Haven CT – Homeless Outreach Assistance, 3 clinicians
  - Oregon / Roseburg VAMC - 25 Med/Surg beds. No patients received at this time.
  - New Jersey State Veterans Homes (Paramus & Meno Park) – Nurses, staffing, telehealth, and supplies.
  - Florida Nursing Home Support: Starting today, VA will begin providing staffing and technical support to 12 non-VA nursing homes in Florida, a state that has seen COVID-19 emerge among these vulnerable populations. More than 80 physicians, nurses and nurses aides will begin rotations at these homes to provide direct care and advice about controlling infectious disease.
  - Portland Oregon Beds - 25 short term acute care (med/surg) and 5 intensive care (ICU) beds at the Portland VAMC for non-covid and covid-positive patients.
  - Washington State Veteran Home support and testing support
  - Alabama - Bill Nichols State Veterans Home in Alexander City, AL, provide 4 registered nurses and 5 nursing assistants
  - Pennsylvania - Nursing Home Staff - Spring City, PA Staff RN/LPN (20)
  - Delaware – Department of Public Health Staff Support. VA is sending 10 RN/LPN/NA to cover 3 nursing homes
  - Wisconsin – Provide 2 pharmacists and 2 respiratory therapists to a mission in Milwaukee
  - Nebraska – VA will provide testing support in Omaha
  - Des Moines/Iowa City – 20 med/surg or ICU beds, no patients received to date
  - Iowa – VA to provide staffing to support State Veteran Home at Marshalltown, Iowa. Staffing to include RN (4); LPN (16); NA (27)
  - California - Nursing Home Staff support. Four 6-person teams to provide nursing consultation support to long term care (nursing home) facilities in Los Angeles County region
  - Illinois Nursing Home Support – VA will provide 60 of our Community Living Center beds for Illinois civilian nursing home patients. The beds will be provided at the Edward J. Hines Medical (Chicago), Danville Medical Center (Danville) and/or Lovell Federal Health Care Center (North Chicago).



- New Jersey – VA to provide 4 licensed social workers to support patients in State Veterans homes; specific location TBD
- Texas – VA will provide State Veterans Homes Testing and Support, will also provide staff and support services to assist Texas Veterans Land Board with collection and processing of biological samples for testing and analysis. Services will be provided for patients and staff at state veterans homes in Floresville, TX and Temple, TX.
- VA also extended our liaisons detail to the FEMA National Response Coordination Center until June 3, 2020.
- Support to Indian Health Centers and Navajo Nation: 15 personnel for a 30-day period. (May 5 – June 5). IHS Indian Medical Center in Gallup NM, seven (7) ER nurses and 2 RNs; IHS Crownpoint, Hospital two (2) RN's; IHS Kayenta Health Center, two (2) RNs; IHS Northern Navajo Medical Center, two (2) RNs
- Navajo Nation Nursing Support – Tuba City. VA will provide (6) Med Surge Nurses (RNs), (6) Emergency Room RNs and (4) Intensive Care Unit Nurses (RNs)
- North Carolina – VA will provide testing services in support of vulnerable residents/patients and staff at licensed care facilities.
- North Carolina - Staff Support to nursing home including: 1 van driver, 3 Community Living Center nurses, 2 infection control nurses, 1 social work, 1 public affairs officer, 4 nurse screeners, 1 Administrative lead, 4 RNs, and 4 LPNs.
- New Jersey: VA will provide (5) teams of 10 nursing staff to assist with COVID-19 outbreaks in private nursing homes. We will be providing clinical staffing support, and education and consultation on infection control procedures
- Rhode Island: 12 nursing assistants to provide patient care at State Veterans Home in Bristol
- Oregon: VA will provide long term care support teams to the State of Oregon to conduct assessments and training at long term care facilities at multiple locations throughout the state.
- Minnesota – VA will provide up to 50 RN/LPN personnel to support direct patient care at long term care facilities for up to 30 days.
- Mississippi – VA will provide staff and support services to assist Mississippi State Veterans Homes with fit testing and proper utilization of PPE. VHA will provide two teams of 4 to provide training and education of PPE; an industrial hygienist for fit testing and up to 8 RNs.
- Mississippi – State Veteran Home Staff Support. VA will provide registered nurses, 2 licensed practical nurses and 2 certified nursing assistants or similar
- Maryland - providing two staffing teams of RNs, LPNs, NAs and a nurse manager to the Charlotte Hall State Veterans Home. The SVH has a total of 96 residents that tested positive, with most asymptomatic \*New Mission Assignment

#### **CARES ACT IMPLEMENTATION – KEY ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES**

**(Please also include activities related to the implementation of other COVID-related supplementary funding legislation, including P.L. 116-127 and P.L. 116-123)**

- CARES Act, Section 4022. Foreclosure Moratorium and Consumer Right to Request Forbearance: notified OMB's Veterans Affairs and Defense Health Branch of interpretation concerns to ensure that all federal housing agencies impacted by these sections are consistent in implementing the new law, as requested by OMB.
- OIT will complete circuit installs at all four gateways by April 3<sup>rd</sup>, doubling network bandwidth to 160GBs
- OIT has approved 31 COVID-19 Memos valued at \$371.02M

- Working with VHA, VBA, OIT to prepare spend plans and regular reporting templates for CARES Act funding.
- VBA Received \$13M in GOE supplemental funding for COVID-19 related issues such as purchase of equipment and supplies to support telework posture and employee health and safety as well as scheduled deep cleaning of buildings/offices occupied by VBA personnel
- Office of Information Technology CARES Act Supplemental Funding apportionment (\$2.15B) approved by OMB. Funds are available for execution.
- VHA to begin initial distribution to the Healthcare Networks of \$5.3 billion (from the total \$14.4 billion) in Medical Services funding from the CARES Act Supplemental based upon:
  - FY 2020 Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation (VERA) Model
  - VHA's Bed Management System
  - VHA's Managerial Cost Accounting (MCA) system
- As of 6 April 2020, VA reported \$768.1 million in total COVID -19 obligations, an increase of \$371 million from 2 April 2020.
- OIT has Increased telehealth capacity by 15% and can support 11K concurrent sessions
- As of April 9, VA obligated \$768M in total COVID -19 obligations and anticipates surpassing \$1B in COVID-19 related obligations by the end of this week.
  - Examples of VA Purchases
    - Centralized Contracting: 60 awards valued at \$338,803,651.
    - National Acquisition Center (NAC): \$2,499,317 (Pharmacy/Medical Equipment)
    - Technology Acquisition Center (TAC): \$308,789,039 (IT Equipment)
    - Strategic Acquisition Center (SAC): \$27,515,605 (Medical Surgical Supplies)
    - Veterans Health Administration (VHA) at the regional and local level: 1,633 awards valued at \$519,933,615 (Medical Surgical Supplies)
    - Contracts to support national purchases of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and medical equipment (e.g., ventilators) as well as costs associated with level-setting PPE and medical equipment throughout the country
    - Travel, housing, and other support for employees deploying to other medical centers
    - Salary costs incurred to hire and retain staff to support the pandemic
    - Medical facility costs mostly related to reconfiguring space to open additional beds and creating negative pressure rooms
    - Costs associated with Community Care to cover increased demand in the community by Veterans for both COVID-19 related and non-COVID related medical care
- As of April 14, VA obligated \$959 million in total COVID -19 obligations.
- As of April 21, VA's COVID-19 total obligations are \$1.160 billion:
  - VHA obligations: \$841 million
  - OIT obligations: \$319 million
  - To date, \$49 million has been spent on Telehealth capabilities and enhancements, which include \$4 million in bandwidth upgrades and \$42 million to purchase 38K mobile devices and 22K laptops.
- VHA spending on State Home Grants, PPE to state homes, etc.
  - **State Homes:** To date, 23 grant packages totaling \$23 million have been received for COVID-19 related projects. Statutory and legislative challenges in the current program are impacting VA's ability to provide the funds before 1 October 2020. Legislative relief is necessary.

- **Medical Facilities:** To date, \$170 million has been distributed to the Office of Emergency Management in response to operational issues and overtime pay, and \$40 million has been distributed to facilities for expansion of inpatient bed capabilities to include HVAC equipment for negative-pressure rooms and engineering staff overtime.
  - **PPE to State Homes:** VHA facilities considering a request from a State Veteran Home for PPE must take into account the impact that providing PPE to State Veteran Homes has on VHA facility operational stock.
- As of Apr 28, VA's COVID-19 total obligations are \$1.531 billion (+\$371 million from Apr 22)
  - VHA obligations: \$1.21 billion (+\$369 million), including recent obligations for:
    - \$192 million in grants for the homelessness programs (Grant and Per Diem and Supportive Services for Veterans Families); \$52 million for supplies including protective gear such as masks and gowns; and \$66 million for medical equipment
  - OIT obligations: \$321 million (+\$2 million), including:
    - Expansion of Telehealth to include 38,000 mobile devices and 22,000 laptops; doubled bandwidth at 30 sites; hardware upgrades to increase video teleconferencing systems by 1,200 concurrent calls; and increased cloud capability to increase capacity by 6,000 concurrent calls
- As of May 5, VA's COVID-19 total obligations are \$1.688 billion (+\$156 million from Apr 28)
  - VHA obligations: \$1.326 billion (+\$117 million); Significant procurements this week include \$6.7 million for PPE and \$4 million in testing support for COVID-19.
  - OIT obligations: \$357 million (+\$36 million)
  - VBA obligations: \$3 million (+\$3 million)
- As of May 12, VA's COVID-19 **total obligations** are \$1.823 billion (+\$135 million from May 5)
  - VHA obligations: \$1.427 billion (+\$101 million)
  - OIT obligations: \$391 million (+\$34 million)
    - Significant procurements include \$30.64 million to increase support/installation of IT equipment in call centers
  - VBA obligations: \$3.7 million (+\$110 thousand)
    - Significant procurements include \$121.5 thousand on supplies and \$72.6 thousand on facility deep cleaning
- As of May 12, VA's COVID-19 **total expenditures** are \$610 million
- As of May 19, VA's COVID-19 total obligations are \$1.951 billion (+\$128 million from May 12):
  - VHA obligations: \$1.530 billion (+\$103 million)
  - OIT obligations: \$415 million (+\$24 million)
  - Significant procurements include on-boarding 27 temporary civilian hires; hardware to support Activations and Cyber Security; and additional laptops/cell phones to support increases in VHA telehealth/telemedicine.
- As of May 26, VA's COVID-19 total expenditures are \$721 million (+\$111 million from May 12)
- As of May 26, VA's COVID-19 **total obligations** are \$2.194 billion (+\$243 million from May 19)
  - VHA obligations: \$1.662 billion (+\$132 million)
  - OIT obligations: \$524 million (+\$109 million)
  - VBA obligations: \$3.9 million (+\$495 thousand)
    - Significant procurements include: \$61.9 thousand on travel and per diem for repatriating staff and their families from Manila; \$36.4 thousand on supplies (bulk procurements of plexiglass shields, hand sanitizers, masks, gloves, disinfectant wipes, etc.); and \$7.7 thousand on facility deep cleanings.
  - Gen Admin (HR&A/OSP) obligations: \$188 thousand (+\$188 thousand)

- Significant procurements include: overtime; area disinfecting; barrier installation; disinfecting agents; and PPE.

**Major upcoming decisions that require POTUS or Task Force-level decisions (only the biggest, most sensitive items should be included here, many agencies may not have anything to report in this section)**

- **NSTR**

**Guidance, Communication and Outreach with Stakeholders**

- SECVA Media:
  - No media today
- SECVA calls to Governors or Members of Congress on COVID-19 related issues:
  - No Phone calls today
- VA Issues the following press release
  - No media release today
- **Other Notable Responses**
  - Note: No new Veteran Data is available due to a system error, reporting will resume Monday June 1. Below is reflective of May 28.
  - 11,618 Total Positive Veteran COVID-19 Cases (+114 cases from yesterday)
  - 1,599 Positive Veteran Cases (96 cases from yesterday)
  - 8,861 Convalescent Veteran Cases (+9 cases from yesterday due to small reporting error). Convalescent cases are defined as 14 days post positive test results for outpatients and discharged status for inpatients. These are essentially “recovered” cases.
  - Veteran Deaths: 1,158 veterans have died from COVID-19 (+9 from yesterday)
  - 93 Active Veteran cases remain greater New York City Area (Bronx, Hudson Valley, Northport, Brooklyn)
  - Other areas with 50 or more active veteran cases include Washington, DC (64), Chicago (79), Albany (56), New Jersey (50)
- **1,156 VA Positive Employee cases**
  - No new employee case data available today
  - This is an increase of -7 cases from VA’s last available data
  - The largest clusters of employee cases are our New Orleans Medical Center with 188 employees testing positive and our Greater New York City Area Medical Centers (Bronx, Hudson Valley, Northport, Brooklyn) with 265 employees testing positive
  - Other employee hot spots at our Medical Centers include: New Jersey (42) Chicago (39), Washington, DC (32), Shreveport (20), Boston (41), Dallas (64), Baltimore (29), Portland (27)
  - To date there have been 32 employee deaths: 1 in Ann Arbor, 1 in Detroit, 3 in Indianapolis, 3 in Reno, 1 in Shreveport, 1 in Houston, 1 in Los Angeles. 1 in West Palm Beach, 2 in the Bronx (NY), 1 Manhattan (NY), 1 in Denver and 1 in Brockton (Boston), 1 in Washington, DC and 1 in Northport (NY), 1 in Miami and 1 in New Orleans, 1 in Wilkes-Barre (PA), 5 in New

Jersey and 1 in Loma Linda (CA), 1 in Queens (NY) and 1 in Bedford (MA), 1 in Fayetteville NC and 1 in Syracuse, New York.

### **Historical Input**

#### **MEDIA, NEWS RELEASE, OUTREACH TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND GOVERNORS, OUTREACH TO VA STAKEHOLDERS**

- **The Secretary of Veterans Affairs had the following interviews with press:**

- Jeff “Goldy” Goldberg, WFNC Radio
- NBC 4 w/ Scott MacFarlane
- Jim Blythe, Alliance 4 the Brave (Dallas)
- Kirsti Marohn, Minnesota Public Radio
- Ware Morning Show (Radio), San Antonio
- Fox News Rundown (Taped)
- Wake Up Tucson, AZ
- Fred Thys, WBUR Radio (NPR Boston)
- Moon Griffon Show (LA radio)
- Leo Shane of Military Times (print)
- Pensacola’s Morning News (FL radio)
- WWL Radio (New Orleans, LA radio)
- The Drive with Lee Matthews (Oklahoma City, OK radio)
- Kevin Miller in the Morning (Boise, ID radio)
- The Marc Cox morning Show (St Louis, MO radio)
- Larry O’Connor, WMAL (DC/CA radio)
- KOAN Radio (Anchorage, AK)
- Montana Talks Radio.
- COX Media w/ Samantha Manning
- The Ross Kaminsky Show (CO radio)
- Lisa Rein, The Washington Post
- The Conservative Circus (Phoenix radio)
- The Bob Rose Show (FL radio)
- Charlie James Show (SC radio)
- Mobile Mornings (AL radio)
- The Mark Sterling Show (NC radio)
- Fox Across America (Fox News Radio)
- Richmond’s Morning News (VA radio)
- Ringside Politics (LA radio/tv)
- The Erick Erickson Show (GA radio)
- The Sam Malone Show (Houston, TX Radio)
- The Dale Jackson Show (Huntsville, AL Radio)
- AM Tampa Bay Radio
- The John Fredericks Radio Show
- The Matt and Aunie Show (AL radio)
- The Schilling Show (VA radio)
- The Annie Frey Show (St. Louis radio)
- The Wilkow Majority on Sirius XM radio

- Bernie and Sid in the Morning (NYC radio)
- Tom Jordan and Roberta Jasina (Detroit radio)
- The Frank Beckmann Show (Detroit radio)
- The Heidi Harris Show (Las Vegas radio)
- The Steve Gruber Show (Lansing/Flint, MI radio)
- Morning Talk with Martha Zoller (Atlanta, GA radio)
- The Brian Kilmeade Show (Fox News Radio)
- The David Webb Show (SiriusXM radio)
- The Todd Starnes Show (Fox News Radio)
- Joe Piscopo in the Morning (NYC Radio)
- South Florida's First News with Jimmy Cefalo (Miami/Ft. Lauderdale Radio)
- The Bill Spadea Show (NJ Radio)
- The Kuhner Report (Boston Radio)
- Mornings with Brian Haldane (Baton Rouge, LA Radio)
- Pat Kime of Military.com.
- Ben Kesling of The Wall Street Journal
- The Joyce Kaufman Show (South Florida radio)
- Quil Lawrence of NPR
- MSNBC Live with Stephanie Ruhle
- WTKR TV Norfolk, VA
- KSWB TV San Diego
- WCAU-TV Philadelphia
- WGN-TV National
- WFAA-TV Dallas
- Midday News with James MacKay (Boston Radio)
- JJ Green of WTOP (DC Radio)
- Liz MacDonald on Fox Business
- Martha MacCallum of Fox News
- AM Tampa Bay radio
- Lars Larson (radio)
- The Fayetteville Observer
- Prairie Public Radio (Fargo, ND)
- KTTH Seattle (radio)
- The Birmingham Fox Affiliate (local Birmingham, AL tv)
- Shannon Bream
- Nebraska Public Radio
- WTOP Radio (DC)
- Think Show, Dallas NPR
- WESA FM Radio (Pittsburgh, PA).
- KBST Radio (Big Spring, TX).
- KOKI-TV Tulsa, OK.
- WCIV-TV Charleston, SC.
- KALB-TV Alexandria, LA.
- KSNV-TV Las Vegas, NV.
- Fox and Friends First this morning.
- WLBT-TV Jackson, MS.
- KPBS-TV San Diego, CA.
- WGN Radio.



- Newsmax.
- Fox News Radio
- America's HQ on Fox News <https://video.foxnews.com/v/6158768721001#sp=show-clips>
- Ed Henry on Fox News
- ABC News' Martha Raddatz
- CBS Evening News' Jan Crawford

- **VA Has Issued the Following News Releases**

- VA extends financial, benefits and claims relief to Veterans  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5412>
- Secretary Wilkie thanked Wounded Warrior Project for \$10 million commitment to aid Veterans  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5421>
- VA, Facebook and American Red Cross provide Portal video calling devices to Veterans, caregivers, and families <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5422>
- VA Tele-mental health visits on the rise amid COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5418>
- VA Mobilizes 3D Printing Resources nationwide to fight COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5419>
- VA Announces, "Fourth Mission" Actions to Help American Respond to COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5420>
- VA Partners with IRS/Dept. of Treasury to Deliver Economic Impact Payments  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5423>
- VA's telehealth system grows as Veterans have access to unlimited data while using VA Video Connect <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5426>
- VA, DoD implement new capability for bidirectional sharing of health records with community partners <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5425>
- VA acquires Texas community hospital to fight COVID-19 and care for Veterans in the future  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5424>
- Timeline on how VA prepared for COVID-19 outbreak and continues to keep Veterans safe  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5427>
- VA researchers to study COVID-19 in aging Veterans with dementia  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5428>
- VA health app now available to Veterans across all mobile and web platforms <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5430>
- VA hiring jumps 37% in response to COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5429>
- Joint Statement from DHS and VA on Continued Collaboration Throughout COVID-19 Pandemic  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5431>
- VA establishes the department's first history office <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5432>
- VA joins XPRIZE Pandemic Alliance to combat COVID-19 and future outbreaks  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5433>
- VA Trust in Veteran Health Care Rises above 90% for the first time  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5435>
- VA expands access to virtual hearings  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5436>

- VA names Brooks Tucker Acting Chief of Staff  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5437>
- VA participating in drug, plasma trials in fight against COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5438>
- VA is protecting and Serving All of America  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5439>
- VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry reaches a major milestone  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5441>
- VA Enhances National COVID-19 Reporting Summary Tool  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5440>
- VA Gets Boost from CARES Act to provide emergency assistance to Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness during COVID-19 crisis.  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5442>
- Process for Charting the Course - Agency Plan on Returning to Pre-COVID-19 Operations <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5443>
- Post-COVID-19 Operations Plan to VA Leaders and Staff.  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5443>
- VA and Parkinson's Foundation partner to help Veterans Living with Parkinson's disease  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5444>
- VA Kicks off Mental Health Campaign emphasizing mental health support  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5445>
- VA and Parkinson's Foundation partner to help Veterans Living with Parkinson's disease  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5444>
- VA Kicks off Mental Health Campaign emphasizing mental health support  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5445>
- CARES Act helping VA boost protections for Veterans  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5415>
- VA appeals production at all time high  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5414>
- VA's Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System provides surge-support to combat COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5417>
- VA accepts Mask Donation from South Korea to Assist with COVID-19 efforts, longtime partner and ally sends 500,000 masks <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5447>
- VA Releases New COVID Coach Mobile App  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5448>
- VA National Cemeteries to Commemorate Memorial Day  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5450>
- VA reports rising patient capacity, stable supplies and staffing 8 weeks into COVID Emergency  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5449>
- VA, multiple agencies launch joint Mortgage and Housing Assistance Website for Americans Impacted by COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5451>
- VA Encourages Donations to help homeless veterans or those at risk of homelessness during COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5453>
- VA lead facilities reintroduce health care services while ensuring a safe environment  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5454>
- Secretary Wilkie Memorial Day Message 2020

<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5455>

- Gary Sinise Foundation Donates Meals to VA Hospital Staff During COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5456>
- VA Conducts Deep Dive Study into effects of COVID-19 on Veterans  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5457>
- VA Resume Compensation and Pension Exams at select locations  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5458>
- White House Order to End union subsidies expands clinical space for Veterans, nets \$1.4 billion for taxpayers  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5459>

- **The Secretary of Veterans Affairs made calls to the following Governors to discuss State Veteran Home support and other COVID-19 issues:**

- Maine – Janet Mills
- Oregon – Kate Brown
- Alabama – Kay Ivey
- New Hampshire – Chris Sununu
- New Jersey – Phil Murphy
- South Carolina – Henry McMaster
- Oklahoma – Kevin Stitt
- Georgia – Brian Kemp
- South Dakota – Kristi Noem
- Tennessee – Bill Lee
- Arkansas – Asa Hutchinson
- Ohio – Mike Dewine
- Iowa – Kim Reynolds
- Kansas – Laura Kelly
- Florida Governor Ron DeSantis
- Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy
- Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo
- Idaho Governor Brad Little
- Maryland Governor Larry Hogan
- New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy (5/20/2020)
- Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker (5/21/2020)

- **VA leadership has participated in the following Congressional Engagements**

- Secretary Wilkie hosted weekly phone calls with Chairman Jerry Moran and Ranking Member Jon Tester of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.
- Secretary Wilkie hosted weekly phone calls with Chairman Mark Takano and Ranking Member Phil Roe of the House Veterans Affairs Committee.
- VA facilitated a briefing to Senate and House Authorizing committee staffers on VA's Emergency Management Disaster Plan for COVID-19.
- Sent daily detailed updates to both House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees.

- Sent 541 letters to Members of Congress and Committees clarifying the process for requests from states and localities for VA to activate it's 4<sup>th</sup> MISSION.
- VHA Executive in Charge, and the Assistant Secretary from Management briefed HVAC Chairman Takano on the \$19.6 Billion received in the supplemental funding bill (3/30/2020).
- Secretary Wilkie briefed Sen. Boozman on Appropriations related issues. (4/2/2020)
- The VA Chief Acquisition Officer briefed House Veterans Affairs Minority Staff on procurement, supply chain, etc. (4/6/2020)
- VA Chief Financial Officers briefed the House and Senate Appropriations staffers (4 Corners) on VHA's Supplemental Funding distribution plan for the Families First and CARES Acts. (4/7/2020)
- Human Resources and Administration office briefed House Veterans Affairs and Senate Veteran's Affairs Committee staff on workforce challenges during COVID-19. The briefing covered 1) what VA is doing to recruit/hire nurses and staff; 2) how VA is keeping staff safe; 3) how VA is incorporating feedback from union leaders and safety officers during this COVID-19 response. (4/8/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie conducted update calls on VA's response to COVID with House Appropriations MilConVA Subcommittee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman-Shultz, House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jerry Moran. (4/9/2020)
- The Executive in Charge, VHA had a phone briefing with HVAC Chairman Mark Takano on VA response to COVID-19. (4/13/2020)
- Acting Deputy Secretary Powers held separate conference calls with Sen Moran (SVAC Chair), Sen Bozeman (SAC-VA), CM Takano (HVAC Chair), and CM Roe (HVAC Ranking); discussed COVID response. (4/15/2020)
- The Chief Information Officer Jim Gferer held a call with House and Senate MilConVA Subcommittee staff. (4/16/2020)
- ADEPSEC Powers had a call with Senator Brian Schatz (Hawaii), Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee MilConVA. (4/20/2020)
- Veteran's Health Administration CFO and VA budget staff briefed House and Senate Appropriations staffers on VHA's CARES Act Supplemental Funding supporting the VA Homelessness Program. (4/22/2020)
- Veterans Health Administration and Office of Information and Technology subject matter experts briefed House and Senate Appropriations staff on the use and expansion of Telehealth capabilities in response to COVID-19. (4/25/2020)
- The VHA Chief Financial Officer briefed House and Senate Appropriations staff on the \$150 million for State Home Construction Grants and \$606 million for Medical Facilities including Non-Recurring Maintenance, as well as, the provision that allows VHA to provide PPE to State Homes in response to COVID-19. (4/27/2020)
- VHA subject matter experts held a call with the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Staff to brief them on VA's support for State Veteran Homes. (4/29/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie held a phone call with West Virginia Senators Manchin and Shelly Capito Moore. (4/30/2020)
- Leaderships from the Office of Logistics and Constructions and VHA Procurement Office briefed House Veterans Affairs minority staff on supply chain efforts. (5/1/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie had a phone call with HAC MilConVA Subcommittee Chair Debbie Wasserman Schulz. to update on COVID and formally decline the Subcommittee's invite for a May hearing. (5/6/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie had a phone call with Sen. Jack Reed on PPE request for state of Rhode Island. (5/8/2020)

- Acting Deputy Secretary Powers had a call with Sen. Hassan to discuss the partnership with New Hampshire regarding a PPE shipment. (5/8/2020)
- The Executive in Charge, VHA briefed House Veterans Affairs, Senate Veterans Affairs and Appropriation Committee staff members on COVID-19 response.
- Executive in Charge, VHA held a call with members of the House Appropriations Committee.
- VBA Executives briefed staff from SVAC (Majority and Minority) and HVAC (Majority and Minority) on COVID-19 efforts as well as updates on Compensation and Pension contract exams, disability benefits questionnaires, claims processing and appeals. (5/8/2020)
- Assistant Secretary of OIT, Jim Gfrerer briefed Representatives Lee and Levin on technological implications of COVID-19 on the GI Bill. (5/8/2020)
- Leadership from Office of Logistics and Construction leadership briefed the Minority Staff for SVAC on supply chain issues related to VA's 4<sup>th</sup> Mission. (5/8/2020)
- SECVA hosted weekly phone call with SVAC Chairman Jerry Moran and Ranking Member Jon Tester (5/13/2020)
- A DEPSEC had a call with Ambassador John Hennessey-Niland, Republic of Palau (5/15/2020)
- Veterans Benefit Administration executives provided a briefing to Four Corners regarding updates on VBA's three-phased approach for returning to pre-COVID operations especially for VA regional offices and pension management centers, and the need for any additional funding around overtime and IT. (5/15/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie hosted a phone call with Alaska Senator Dan Sullivan
- Sec. Wilkie hosted his weekly update call with SVAC Chairman Jerry Moran and Ranking Member Jon Tester
- Veterans Benefit Administration executives provided a briefing to House Veterans Affairs and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Staff regarding updates on VBA's three-phased approach for returning to pre-COVID operations, the need for any additional funding around overtime and IT and pending examinations. (5/22/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie hosted a phone call with HAC MilCon Chair Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (5/27/2020)
- SECVA and VA leaders testified this morning in front of the HAC MilCon VA Subcommittee on VA's response to COVID-19 (5/28/2020)

### **Other Key Engagements with VA Stakeholders**

- Secretary Wilkie joined President Trump on a stakeholder call with leaders of Veterans Service organizations to update them on the government wide response to COVID-19. (3/21/20)
- Under Secretary for Benefits and the Executive in Charge for VHA briefed Rep. Takano, Rep. Roe, Sen. Tester and Sen. Moran on COVID-19 Responses for Health and Benefits. (4/2/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie briefed the FEMA Task Force. Informed them that VA was prepared to open 1500 beds across our system to help relieve the pressure on states and localities. Each Veterans Affairs network has put in place contingency plans to expand the number of beds available, first for veterans and then our fellow citizens. (4/3/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie participated in a conference call on mental health services with the President, First Lady, the Vice President, Second Lady and HHS Sec. Alex Azar. (4/9/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie joined White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Doug Hoelscher for a briefing on VA and White House response to COVID-19. Over 200 State and Local Leaders joined the call. (4/14/2020)
- The Secretary hosted weekly phone calls with VSO leaders to provide them with an update on VA's response to the COVID 19 Pandemic.



- Secretary Wilkie and his leadership team hosted a call with State and Local Government Stakeholders to provide them an update on VA's response to COVID-19.
- Secretary visited the Washington DC hospital to thank staff and visit veterans. (4/21/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie hosted a teleconference with the Baltimore Veteran Treatment Court staff to include their Public Defender, District Attorney, veteran mentors and student attorneys. (4/22/2020)
- The Under Secretary for Benefits hosted multiple tele-townhalls for Veterans which, focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates.
- Under Secretary of Memorial Affairs Randy Reeves hosted a phone call with State Leaders to discuss issues regarding our National Cemeteries during COVID-19. (4/21/2020)
- VA Office of Intergovernmental Affairs reached out to 250 State Leaders to discuss topics such as support for states, updates or support on State Veterans homes, etc. (4/23/2020)
- VA Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and SMEs from VA's office of mental health held a briefing call with State and Local leaders including State Veterans Affairs Directors, County Veterans Service Officers, etc. on VA's efforts to serve Veterans with mental health issues during COVID-19. (4/28/2020)
- Plane load of Chinese-made PPE arrived in New Hampshire. ADEPSEC Powers traveled to NH to meet the plane with Governor Sununu and provided remarks at the event. VA worked an agreement with the State of New Hampshire via Governor Chris Sununu to procure a large amount of the supplies. (4/30/2020)
- SECVA hosted a weekly VSO update call to update our VSO stakeholders on our response to COVID-19 (5/13/2020)
- Under Secretary for Benefits Paul Lawrence hosted a Tele-Townhall for Veterans in Iowa on Tuesday, May 12, focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates, reaching 34,247 participants. (5/13/2020)
- Acting Deputy Secretary Pamela Powers visited the Richmond VA Medical Center in Virginia to meet with hospital leadership and thank them for their work during the response to COVID-19 (5/19/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie hosted his weekly update call with Veteran Service Organizations to brief them on VA's ongoing efforts regarding COVID-19 (5/20/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie joined the President for the Rolling to Remember Event at the White House (5/22/2020)
- Under Secretary for Benefits hosted a Tele-Townhall for Veterans in Virginia focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates, reaching 59,164 participants. (5/22/2020)
- Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Randy Reeves appeared on Fox News to discuss protocol at VA Cemeteries during Memorial Day  
<https://www.foxnews.com/media/va-undersecretary-addresses-flag-controversy-for-2020-memorial-day>
- Sec. Wilkie (Quantico National Cemetery), DEPSEC Powers (Culpepper VA National Cemetery) and USMA (Calverton National Cemetery) gave keynote remarks at small ceremonies for Memorial Day (5/25/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie hosted his weekly tele-conference with Veterans Service Organizations to update them on VA's COVID-19 response and other matters (5/27/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie and USB Paul Lawrence hosted a town hall for North Carolina Veterans (5/27/2020)

#### **Miscellaneous Communications from VA**



- VAntage blog published January 31st and continually updated since:  
<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/70999/cdc-coronavirus-information-and-resources/>
- VetResources emails, providing Coronavirus information and prevention guidance, were sent to 10.8 million subscribers. (2/5 and 2/26)
- Implemented VEText outreach to 8,858,481 Veterans to receive COVID-19 information and updates via text. (3/17/2020)
- Partnered with Facebook and the American Red Cross Military Veteran Caregiver Network to support Veterans and their families/caregivers in their homes through use of 7,488 free Facebook Portal devices.
- Conducted a “Lunch and Learn” a virtual online meeting to provide Veteran Service Organizations and community partners access to VA resources including COVID-19 response resources.
- Published VETResources to a total of 10.7M Veterans via email. (3/25/20).
- Secretary Wilkie sent a message to all VA employees expressing appreciation for their support during the COVID-19 pandemic, assuring them that their health and safety and that of VA’s patients is critical, and offering resources to promote employee wellness. (3/17/2020)
- Deployed VEText based messages to Veterans that have a mobile phone number registered with VA (3/30/2020);
  - The texts reach approximately 7.1 million Veterans.
  - The message: “Dept of Veterans Affairs COVID-19 update: Stay home, stay safe, stay connected. VA has online tools for appointments, prescriptions, and more.  
<https://go.usa.gov/xdJkp>
- Developed a COVID-19 quick start guide (QSG) to be posted as part of the VA welcome kit and broadly distributed to Veterans. This distribution includes:
  - All MOU partners (corporate partners), Veteran Service Organizations (VSO), posted on social media pages (Twitter, Facebook, etc.), VA Program Offices for sharing across their partner networks, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA). (3/30/2020)
- Published public blog with guidance for Veterans/Caregivers seeking access to DoD facilities.
- Conducted a “Lunch and Learn” virtual online meeting to provide Veteran Service Organizations and community partners information on VA Mental Health resources and highlight the Cohen Veterans Network (CVN) mental health initiatives <http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/veocvebllcohen/>
- The COVID Quick Start Guide (QSG) was posted at <https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit/> (4/7/2020)
- Initiated an advertising campaign for VHA recruiting. (4/7/2020)
- #LiveWholeHealth-Self Care Resources campaign for Veterans during Coronavirus crisis launched.
- PREVENTS reached out to Vets during the COVID crisis, releasing informational videos and concrete steps that Veterans and their families can take to care for their emotional well-being under the tag #MoreThanEverBefore and with the help of lead PREVENTS Ambassador Second Lady Karen Pence. (4/8/2020)
- <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/73363/live-whole-health-self-care-episode-1/>
- Sent a Mental-health focused VEText message to be distributed to 9 million Veterans (4/10/2020)
- Published *Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Financial Relief Actions and Time Limit Extensions* to VBA’s Fact Sheets site. (4/10/2020)
- Published *VBA COVID-19 FAQs* to help address routine and non-urgent questions. (4/10/2020)
- Delivered VETResources digital newsletter to 10.7 Million Veterans. (4/16/2020)
- VA launched a new website on VA’s external blog <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/roll-of-honor/> called the “Roll of Honor”. This new webpage page came about as a result of not being able to provide committal services due to the COVID-19 crisis. The site provides an opportunity to

remember those Veterans interred during this crisis and reflects interments in our cemeteries. Each day, NCA will add the names; branch of service and location of burial for each Veteran interred in a national cemetery on the previous day. (4/16/2020)

- VA's My HealtheVet team is hosting a webinar for Veterans about how to access VA telehealth services, in coordination with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. (4/17/2020)
- VA sent a text message via VETtext to 8.2M Veterans. Content is focused on financial hardship, and specifically action certain Veterans must take to claim an additional \$500 per dependent in stimulus funds. (5/1/2020)
- VBA published the Transition Talk series to VBA's Transition and Economic Development website. Several video segments were posted that addressed our response to COVID-19 and VBA Program updates. (5/12/2020)
- Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits, Margarita Devlin, participated in a virtual event sponsored by the Association of Defense Communities and Blue Star Families.
- VA published the following video that discussed TAP procedures during COVID-19, including information on how to access web-based VA Benefits and Services courses and Military Life Cycle: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3agzM86sBk>
- Secretary Wilkie visited the Baltimore, Maryland VA Medical Center to thank employees for their life saving and important work during the Pandemic. (5/18/2020)
- Under Secretary for Benefits, Paul Lawrence hosted a Tele-Townhall for Veterans in Oklahoma on focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates, reaching 27,705 participants. (5/18/2020)
- PDUSB Margarita Devlin was the keynote speaker for Day 1 of VA Healthcare Online Summit. (5/19/2020)
- USB Paul Lawrence hosted a Tele-Townhall for Veterans in Kentucky focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates, reaching 21,434 participants. (5/19/2020)
- VA shared our Transition Talk/Transition Assistance Program video segment through various social media channels and communication platforms. This segment of Military to Civilian Transition Talk discussed the cancellation of TAP events due to COVID-19 and the availability of online courses and where to access them. All Transition Talk episodes are located at <https://benefits.va.gov/transition/coronavirus.asp>
- Published Circular 26-20-19, *Additional Lender Guidance Concerning COVID-19*, to provide supplemental information regarding current VA policies and to provide further guidance to assist in the processing of VA-guaranteed loans during the National Emergency. The circular is located at [https://www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/documents/circulars/26\\_20\\_19.pdf](https://www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/documents/circulars/26_20_19.pdf).
- Board of Veterans Appeals Chairman Cheryl Mason participated in an interview with Government Matters to discuss BVA's response to COVID-19 (5/22/2020)
- VBA posted information to its social media platforms concerning VA benefits debts. If a Veteran or beneficiary are financially unable to pay their debt(s) due to the COVID-19 crisis, they can call or submit their request online at <https://iris.custhelp.va.gov/app/ask/>.
  - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/VAVetBenefits/status/1265659176203833345?s=20>
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransBenefits/posts/10158288334263416:0>
- Total VA email messages sent from January 24, 2020 with reference to COVID-19 and/or Coronavirus in either the subject line or body content up to today: 288,566,268. VA email percentage directly related to COVID-19 Outreach is 288,566,268/519,433,938 or 54.2%.
- A VETtext message describing Veterans Health Administration's re-opening plans was sent today to a total of 8.1M Veterans.

## Guidance Documents and Human Capital

- Provided HR Emergency Preparedness Guide to employees and managers to answer questions on a wide range of human capital topics (e.g., travel, leave, telework, employee relations, labor relations, compensation, staffing, reasonable accommodation); continue to update based on new guidance.
- Released system-wide policy released directing curtailment of routine appointments and elective surgeries at all VA facilities (3/17/20)
- Released guidance for Geriatrics & Extended Care Home & Community Based Services Programs to protect Veterans and staff including strict limitations on visitors in geriatric facilities, increasing the use of virtual modalities for clinical care, and screening all essential visitors or residents of a Veterans home prior to initiating contact.
- Released Chaplain guidance related to COVID-19 transmitted to the field (3/17/20) that continues to provide spiritual support to Veterans while using appropriate PPE or and utilizing virtual modalities for worship services. Any large-scale chaplain events have been cancelled. (3/17/20)
- Implementation of an Episodic Special Patient Icon in Bed Management Solution sent to the field
  - VA recently launched an Episodic Patient Icon to identify inpatient Veterans who are presumptive or confirmed positive cases during epidemics. These icons can also be used to identify negative pressure rooms which allows for real-time bed capacity across the enterprise.
- Issuing proposed COVID-19 Interim Suitability & Fingerprint Guidance to comply with social distancing recommendations; guidance includes temporarily suspension of an initial fingerprint check (SAC) prior to new employees and contractor's entry-on-duty (EOD); VA continuing other investigatory measures such as initiation of e-Quip.
- Finalized a response to various union demands to bargain implementation of measures and precautions being put in place by the Department to protect people and property during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The general response denies immediate negotiations while advising any impact and implementation bargaining will occur post-implementation when the pandemic ceases. The Department is willing to meet all its legal obligations, including negotiating with unions representing VA employees, but must also focus on providing care to our Veterans while protecting the safety and security of our facilities and the health of all in them.
- Issued guidance memorandum authorizing waiver of the biweekly pay limitation on premium pay for workers performing duties in response to COVID-19, permitting overtime and premium pay for eligible workers up to the annual limitation.
- OPM signed dual-compensation waiver to allow hiring of reemployed annuitants (i.e. retired employees) during COVID-19 by streamlining current delegations of authority for waiver of salary offset
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP): Prepared to increase scope of the EAP contract with FOH for COVID-19 counselling if needed.
- VA announced the policy change that allows for a dual compensation waiver for retired annuitants (retired VA employees) to be hired back to VA to meet the increased need of healthcare workers during COVID-19
- VA working with OPM to expedite blanket requests from VA to exceed the limits on recruitment, relocation, and retention incentives for Title 5 employees to help provide necessary staff
- Coordinated with DOD to identify approximately 8581 employees who are reserve/guard members and 669 are currently activated – 122 nurses and 24 doctors included in this number.

- Internal bulletin being drafted to implement new OPM guidance on flexible on-boarding this coming pay period and as needed during COVID to minimize physical proximity (such as the oath of office, the form I-9, fingerprinting, orientation, physical examinations, drug testing).
- Submitted to OPM: (1) request for dual comp waiver to cover 2210 (IT Specialists) series occupations, and (2) direct hire authority for VBA positions-- Veteran Service Representative, Rating Veterans Service Representative, and Legal Administrative Specialist.
- Guidance sent to HR offices of a temporary postponement of pre-employment applicant drug testing for testing designated positions (TDP) for up to 180 days.
- Authority to Approve Weather & Safety Leave for Employees
- Guidance for Elective Gastroenterology and Hepatology Procedures – COVID-19
- Guidance for VHA Eye Care Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- OCHCO Bulletin – Temporary Authorization to Delay Pre-Placement and Recurring Physical Exams
- Guidance for VHA Emergency Child Care Center Operations
- Dual Compensation Waiver Guidance for VHA
- Guidance on Safeguards for Military Environmental Registry Exams to Protect Veterans
- Guidance on Patient Specimen Shipments - UPS shipping
- Guidance on Preparedness for Mechanical Ventilation of COVID-19 patients during Pandemic
- Examining with OPM on a waiver or use of existing interchange agreements to detail excepted to competitive positions
- Collaborating with DOL and DHS/USCIS on a waiver of labor market review for non-citizens.
- Collaborating with the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association to let that community participate in helping VA fill its openings.
- VA send new (coordinated) guidance to the field on MISSION Act considerations (3/27/20).
- VA released the VHA COVID-19 Response Plan which provides guidance to the field. The operations plan includes strategies to address many COVID-19 cases to include alternative sites of care for Veterans with COVID-19. (3/27/20)
- VA Veterans Health Administration sent the following guidance to the field (3/27/2020)
  - Delegation of Authority – Group Recruitment and Retention Incentives for Title 38 Employees
  - Recruitment, Hiring and Organizational Changes During COVID-19
  - COVID-19 VHACO Clinician Request
  - Postponement of Long-Term Care Surveys
  - Establishment of New Hire Processing Timeline
  - Office of Nursing Services Recruitment – Retired Annuitants and Travel Nurse Corps
- Recommending OPM delay Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) by 3 months. VA is considering delay of VA's annual All Employee Survey (AES) to September.
- OPM approved direct hire authority for the following VBA positions: Veterans Service Representative; Rating Veterans Service Representative; Legal Administrative Specialist.
- Modifying Bulletin on waiving physical examinations during COVID-19 to address stress on Employee Occupational Health (EOH) offices who are focused on COVID-19 screening.
- Working modifications to HRSmart to support mass hiring to support deployable medical personnel. (3/29/2020)
- Submitting request to OPM for broad authority to approve Special Contribution Awards (SCA) above the \$10K agency limit; drafting changes to current policy (VAH 5017) to delegate from SECVA to EIC authority to approve SCAs up to \$10K.
- Notified HR offices on COVID-19 Excepted Service Hiring Authority for Schedule A approved by OPM. this allows us to quickly hire any Title 5 positions that are in direct response COVID-19. VA may use



this to fill positions on a temporary basis for up to one year as needed in response to, or as a result of COVID-19. (3/30/2020)

- OPM sending VA job opportunities to over 1M retirees.
- VA All Employee Survey postponed until September 2020.
- Notified Human Resources (HR) offices of the Federal employee leave provisions under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the requirement to post the Families First Coronavirus Response Act Notice at VA facilities.
- In accordance with OMB and VA COVID-19 guidance, National Diversity Internship Program (NDIP) FY 20 summer session has been cancelled.
- VHA New Guidance to the field (3/31/2020):
  - Leveraging Capacity to Support Surges in Demand for COVID-19
  - Credentialing and Privileging COVID-19 (Reduced credentialing process for providers in order to expedite onboarding of critical medical staff)
  - Resilience Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (RRTP) Hardening Guidance (Details guidance on efforts to protect staff and patients in our Domiciliary Units)
  - Supplemental Information - Radiology and Nuclear Scheduling and Orders Management During the COVID-19 Pandemic
  - Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance for Urgent and Emergent Surgical Procedures
  - Guidance on Access Standards in response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updated (coordinated with OMB)
- VA OGC advised that the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has the authority during the COVID-19 global pandemic emergency to procure lodging for employees working at their local worksite (e.g., if staff have a need to stay away from their homes/family members and continue to work (e.g. Emergency Department physicians), or a need to stay close by for faster response time, if VHA documents in writing why it has concluded that this event at all or some facilities involves imminent danger to human life and why paying for employee meals and lodging is necessary to combat that imminent danger.
- Assistant Secretary HRA/OSP and Assistant Secretary OIT co-signed a memorandum dated March 31 outlining temporary procedures for personnel security vetting and appointment of new employees and alternative PIV credentials for eligible users during Coronavirus 2019 National Emergency; this guidance implements direction issued to executive departments and agencies from the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Personnel Management.
- Provided guidance on March 26 to field claims processors and the public on good cause for extending claims filing deadlines based on COVID-19. (4/1/2020)
- VHA Guidance Issued to the Field: (4/1/2020)
  - COVID-19 Definitions of Bed Categories
  - Suspension of Registered Nurse Transition to Practice Residency Program
  - COVID - Clinical Resource Hub Guidance
  - Guidance for the Hiring Compensation and Utilization of Alternate Nurse and Unlicensed Assistive Personnel
  - COVID-19 - Process for Cancellation of Non-urgent Operating Room Procedures.
  - Specifically, under existing VA regulations, if the time limits within which claimants or beneficiaries are required to act in order to perfect a claim, file an appeal, or challenge an adverse VA decision expired, the time may be extended for “good cause” shown.
  - Accordingly, claimants impacted by COVID-19 may request an extension for filing based on good cause. VBA regional office claims processors will grant the extension request, provided the time limit in question expired on or after March 13, 2020.

- Notified HR offices of the Federal employee leave provisions under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the requirement to post the Families First Coronavirus Response Act notice at VA facilities. This provides up to two weeks (up to 80 hours) of emergency paid sick leave to all federal civil service employees if they are unable to work (or telework) under specified circumstances related to COVID-19 – unless they are in an exempted category.
- Direct Hire Authority allowed by OPM for certain additional positions in NCA and VHA.
- OPM has authorized VA Direct Hire Authority for one year for the following positions at all grade levels nationwide for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency: Industrial Hygienist, GS-0690 Plumber, WG-4206 Maintenance Worker, WG-4749 Supervisory Engineer, GS-0801 Specialty Engineer, GS-0800 Laborer, WG-3502 Cook, WG-7404 Cemetery Caretaker, WG-4754. OPM has also authorized DHA for the following occupation and at this specific grade level: Human Resources Specialist, GS-0201-12.
- **VHA Guidance to the field:**
  - Changes to In-Person Identity Verification for the My HealtheVet Website
  - COVID-19 Bed Expansion Planning Signed
  - Move! Weight Management Program Guidance for COVID-19 Pandemic Response
  - EIC Memorandum Authorization to pay for Lodging and Meals
  - Contracted Outpatient Sites of Care COVID-19 Virtual Care Information and Updates
- Developing policy on the ability of VA law enforcement personnel, with proper notice, to inspect the personal effects of employees exiting VA healthcare facilities in order to prevent the theft of personal protective equipment needed to protect health care workers during the on-going public health emergency. This is becoming an issue during the Pandemic. (4/4/2020)
- VA signed a memorandum regarding the Child Care Subsidy Program that has temporarily expanded the total family income ceiling from \$89,999 to the maximum limit of \$144,000 for support during the COVID-19 crisis; allows eligible employees to seek reimbursement on some child-care costs. (4/6/2020)
- Veterans Health Administration guidance sent to field: (4/6/2020)
  - Grade and Pay Determinations for Nurses/Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) During COVID-19
  - Homeless Program Office (HPO) Guidance on Face to Face Visits
  - On-Hand Inventory Reporting Requirements for Critical Care and Coronavirus Drugs
  - Update: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Facemask and N95 Respirator Use
  - Tip Sheet for Caregivers During COVID-19
  - VHA COVID 19 Priorities During Transition to VA's New EHRM
  - COVID-19 Employee Deployment - Special Contribution Award Guidance
- VA Public Health, Coronavirus website to provide Veterans & Staff guidance and information now active. Website visited 191,348 times with 172,253 unique visits (4/6/2020)
- Published policy revision updates to VA Handbook 5005 to remove the requirement for Professional Standards Boards for the following occupations listed in 38 U.S.C. § 7401 (3), which will reduce the time to hire for these positions by streamlining the process: physical therapy assistant; occupational therapy assistant; marriage family therapist; therapeutic radiologic technologist; kinesiotherapist; orthotist and prosthetist; medical records administration; blind rehabilitation specialist; blind rehabilitation outpatient specialist; licensed professional mental health counselor, prosthetic representative; nuclear medicine technologist; occupational therapist; physical therapist; dietitian and nutritionist; medical records technician; and therapeutic medical physicist. (4/7/2020)



- VA has decided to defer the Leadership VA (LVA) FY20 Class until FY21 and increase the size from 80 to 100 to make up for some of the leadership development throughput lost from postponing the current cohort. (4/7/2020)
- Veterans Health Administration Guidance to the Field: (4/7/2020)

#### COVID-19 VHA Guidance for Tuberculosis Testing of New Employees

- Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Compliance Inspection During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Accreditation Contract Delayed
- 2020 US Census Participation for Veterans in VA Residential Settings
- Continuity in Mental Health Services and Suicide Prevention Activities During COVID-19
- COVID-19 Temporary/Expedited Appointment Credentialing Process
- Release of Updated Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and New FY 2021 Basic and Prevailing State Home Per Diem Rates for State Veteran Homes
- Focused Professional Practice Evaluation and Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation Process during Presidential Declared State of Emergency – COVID-19
- Guidance on Anticoagulation Use and Monitoring for Veterans Health Administration Anticoagulation Programs During VHA's COVID-19 Emergency Response
- Contact Center Script and Screening (COVID-19) Updated
- VA received approval from OPM to waive the salary off-set for 2210 (Grades 07-15) and 340 series (Grades 12-14) positions. (4/11/2020)
- VA has issued guidance that starting immediately all CLC Staff and Veterans will be tested for COVID-19. CLCs are VA's nursing homes and care for particularly vulnerable Veterans. (4/11/2020)
- OPM approved VA's request for direct hire authority for the following additional 11 positions at all grade levels on a nationwide basis to support COVID-19. The approval begins today and is for one year: personnel security specialist; program support assistant; cemetery representative; health systems specialist; construction control representative; electronics industrial control mechanic; painter; equipment servicer; air conditioning equipment operator; equipment operator; laundry worker. (4/13/2020)
- Notified HR offices of flexibilities to defer random drug testing in certain conditions due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Establishes limited conditions in which a facility director may approve a deferral of a random drug test for an employee occupying a testing designated position. (4/13/2020)
- Revised Guidance on new hire applicant drug testing: April 17 revised bulletin issued updating prior guidance regarding how long an applicant drug test may be postponed; prior bulletin issued on March 25, 2020 advised that due to COVID-19, applicant testing could be postponed for up to 180 days after the applicant's entrance on duty in order for VA to meet emergency hiring needs. The revised bulletin includes the following statement: "It is the responsibility of the HR office to schedule the drug test as soon as practicable, but no later than 90 calendar days from the date of appointment." (4/19/2020)
- VA received approval from OPM on its request to waive the 25 percent limit on recruitment, relocation, and individual retention incentives, and the 10 percent limit on group retention incentives for certain occupations that are responding to workload surges due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). (4/20/2020)
- Provided notices to the field to remind all employees of the services that the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offers to them and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic (guidance was pre-cleared through OMB/OPM). (4/22/2020)

- Provided guidance of required steps for expediting onboarding for new VA hires. Steps have been streamlined to meet urgent staffing needs created by COVID-19 (guidance was pre-cleared through OMB/OPM). (4/22/2020)
- The Secretary signed a Delegation of Authority (April 23) that allows VA Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Other Key Officials at equivalent level of authority, the authority to exclude an employee, who is a health care provider or emergency responder, from application of the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act, Division E and the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act Division C of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). Accompanying guidance (that was vetted by OMB) was issued to the field as well via a Chief Human Capital Officer Bulletin. (4/23/2020)
- VA launched a COVID-19 chatbot on VA.gov this week. The chatbot helps answer veterans' questions about COVID-19 and direct them to available VA resources (4/23/2020)
- SECVA signed a delegation of authority VA Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Other Key Officials, the authority to waive certain limitations on pay for work done in support of the response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The following pay limits are listed in the guidance as covered: basic pay, nurse executive and pharmacist executive special pay, aggregate pay, annual pay, premium pay, and incentives and awards. (4/27/2020)
- On May 12, 2020, VA issued a bulletin (cleared through OMB) that notified HR offices of a temporary authorization to extend the grace period to obtain licenses for currently unlicensed or uncertified GS-9/11 Social Workers (SW) and GS-9 Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT). Due to COVID-19, many state licensing boards, and professional testing centers, have limited operational capacity or have closed entirely. This exception will remain 90 days after the COVID-19 national emergency has been lifted or 90 days after a testing center or resumption of normal operations, whichever is first. (5/13/2020)
- OPM approved additional direct hire authority for the following position at all grade levels on a nationwide basis to support COVID-19: Personnel Security Assistant (GS-0086). The authority is effective immediately and is for one year. (5/20/2020)
- VA Notified HR offices of updated information on various leave options that may be utilized by employees during COVID-19. The bulletin clarifies the conditions in which telework, weather and safety leave, emergency paid sick leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA), paid leave under the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act (EFMLEA), and leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA leave) may be authorized. (5/20/2020)
- VA sent version 6 of COVID-19 FAQs adding several new HR topics. The table of changes also provides a quick reference to other updates made throughout the document on the following topics including: Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), Pre-Placement Examinations, Onboarding, PIV and Background Investigations, Employee Relations, Telework and Reasonable Accommodation, Return to Work. (5/20/2020)

### **COVID Response (VHA)**

- Within a day of the first confirmed US case, VA began planning for COVID-19 by establishing screening and triage, isolation and quarantine, and infection control strategy and plans.
- Activated Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) to Level 1 on January 20, 2020 and it remains activated.
- Daily crisis action team meetings at 3pm to discuss updates and remain in sync internally and with other federal guidance. (3/9/2020)

- Screening points established at every major VHA Healthcare Facility (170 hospitals that serve nearly 9 million veterans across the country. (3/10/20)
- Limited admissions to Spinal Cord Injury Units - 24 major centers; 24,000 Veterans. (3/10/20)
- Restricted admission to VA Community Living Centers (CLC) (134 nationwide nursing homes supporting 41,000 Veterans. (3/10/20)
- Submitted Task Order to HHS to receive an additional 250K masks in Martinsburg; 1.5M masks at the SDC in Hines, IL
- VA is experiencing a reduction in surgical case load due to delaying non-emergent care; down from 1,900 per day to 1,300 per day. Additionally, there has been a 5% drop in ER visits; increased bed capacity by 1/3 across the VA. (3/16/20)
- VA will receive 20,000 testing swabs. (3/23/20)
- Packaged 50,000 masks today for shipment to Denver and Brooklyn. (3/23/2020)
- Future deployment of the Mobile Vet Center to New Orleans, LA will start week of 23 Mar 2020. VA reviewing locations for additional deployments. VA to set up Vet Center Community Access Point to provide direct counseling to Veterans receiving treatment through the HHS location.
- Working to purchase facepiece elastomeric respirators based on CDC Guidance for managing COVID-19 patients; It is recommended that elastomeric respirators be used in order to conserve Surgical 95 and N95 filtering facepieces for high risk procedures that require a sterile field. (3/24/2020)
- Converting all ICU beds to negative airflow beds with a goal of reengineering by 3/30/20
- VA experiencing a high reduction (20%) in urgent care utilization showing Veterans are heeding advice to stay home. (3/24/2020)
- 20k hand sanitizer bottles have been received and will be deployed to the facilities. (3/24/2020)
- Davita and Fresenius Dialysis companies establishing joint cohorting sites for individual markets where COVID 19 dialysis patients can be treated in isolation.
- VA is no longer considering issuing a temporary waiver of the >90% bed hold requirement and the 75% Veteran bed requirement for State Veterans Homes to help ensure they remain solvent during this crisis. After further review, OGC advised that VA has no authority to waive the regulatory requirement. In addition, we were asked to review draft legislative language that would waive the above requirement. The State Homes have a hotline to Congress so we assume this is something they asked for and we will support.
- VA met with OIRA and OMB on MISSION Act considerations. VA is not pausing the MISSION Act. The department is ensuring the best medical interests of Veterans are met by adhering to the law in a manner that takes into account whether referrals for community care are clinically appropriate during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Manila, Philippines Embassy will close in the next two weeks, in which case our VA clinic will close. Eight employees will be returned to the US (1 VHA and 7 VBA) and this will impact 6,000 veterans who receive care from that clinic.
- Activating enhanced Tele-ICU hub
- To support volunteerism, VHA is authorizing Special Contribution Awards up to the limit and asking OPM for authority to go above \$10,000 but under \$25,000 where needed and also making an exception to policy (VA Directive 5007) to allow per regulation recruitment, relocation and retention bonuses for any appointment at least 6 months in duration.
- Received shipment of N-95 masks, swabs and test kits for distribution (3/27/2020)
- Currently supporting approximately 2,500 concurrent telehealth appointments, with a goal of 10,000 concurrent appointments. (3/27/2020)
- With support from our Center for Strategic Partnerships, Office of Research and Development is establishing agreements with two commercial Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) that has allowed

four of our medical centers to join in ongoing COVID-19 clinical trials and positions us to be ready for any future trials using these IRBs. VA opened trials in Palo Alto, Atlanta, New Orleans and Denver, where VA is seeing a surge of COVID patients.

- Partnering with Amazon, to purchase 500 tablets to enable access for Veterans, families and caregivers via VHA Telehealth Service to help ensure medical access and reduce possible exposure estimated launch. (3/30/2020)
- Assisting Homeless Program on development of Assessment and Recovery Center.
- Since the pandemic first started impacting the U.S (as of 3/5), approximately 1,626 families have postponed scheduled services citing COVID-19 concerns.
- VA working an Agreement with Reliance for the use of Advarra as the commercial IRB of record for a COVID-19 study using Gilead's Remdesvir at the Palo Alto VA Medical Center.
- VA has increased telehealth capacity by 15% to 11,000 max concurrent user call capacity.
- Medical Centers are experiencing serious PPE shortage. Several sites doing 3D printing, but it is not enough. Soon, PPE will be rationed; one surgical mask issued per week, one N95 per day. VISN 6 began mask sterilization with Berrett – 2400 mask in a 24-hour period. (4/4/2020)
- 2 Medical Centers have a greater than 70% occupancy of Med/Surg beds with COVID patients: Bronx, NY (86% occupancy) and Boston, MA (72%). (4/11/2020)
- On April 10<sup>th</sup> President Trump signed the "VA Tele-Hearing Modernization Act"
- Massachusetts Chelsea Soldiers' Home (Non-VA Facility) (4/12/2020)
  - 7 veteran resident deaths
  - 22 veteran residents who have tested positive
  - 29 staff tested positive
  - VA Boston has accepted patients for care- total count pending
- VHA is in the process of testing all Community Living Center veterans and staff and should have this complete next week. Approximately 7000 veterans live in our CLCs across the nation. (4/16/2020)
- VA is continuing an aggressive expansion of our Tele-ICU capabilities. Yesterday, VA completed the Fayetteville and Salisbury VA Medical Centers. Today we are working on Hampton and San Juan. 51 total sites for network configuration have been completed to date. (5/13/2020)
- VA recorded a peak number of minutes for telehealth visits in a single day at over 2 million; pre-COVID averages were 300,000 minutes per day (5/13/2020)
- VA kicked off its new COVID-19 Joint Data and Analytic Fusion Cell Integrated Project Team (IPT), which will conduct analytics to fill current gaps in COVID-19 understanding. (5/14/2020)
- DoD is supporting VA via MilAir use to transport medical personnel from Reno, Nevada to Newark, New Jersey due to lack of availability of commercial flights (5/17/2020)
- VA expanded network capacity for telehealth by launching Care2 Cloud. Supported 1,652 calls on May 27, the highest peak concurrent calls for Care2 Cloud to date. This is an increase of 71% in one week.
- This month, May 1 through May 25, VA Video Connect has supported record 221,427 unique Veterans (entire month total for February: 29,683; March 102,667; April 218,905)

#### **COVID Response (BVA/VBA)**

- All VA Regional Benefit Offices (ROs) are closed to the public. Benefits are still being processed virtually.
- Insurance services extended premium payment grace periods; reinstatement deadlines; and Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI) application deadlines. (3/17/20)



- Board of Veterans Appeals suspended all travel board, video, and central office hearings and is prepared to provide virtual hearings where possible if Veterans and the Representative are willing and have the necessary equipment. (3/17/20)
- VA's Loan Guaranty Service issued program guidance for VA's Real Estate Owned and Portfolio Servicing Contract (RPSC) contractor, placing a moratorium on evictions for VA-owned properties for 60 days due to COVID-19.
- VA's Debt Management Center, through coordination with the Veterans Benefits Administration and Veterans Service Organizations, implemented a 60-day COVID-19 debt relief plan to provide temporary financial relief in accordance with Veterans' request.
- Notified GI Bill Beneficiaries and school officials through email and social media. If schools change modality of training to online classes for the current term, VA will continue to pay benefit payments.
- On Saturday, March 21, 2020, the President signed into law S. 3503, which clarifies how the Department of Veterans Affairs should treat in-person courses of study that convert to distance learning formats due to health-related situations and other emergencies.  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/bill-announcement-89/>
- Effective immediately, the Board of Veterans Appeals will advance on docket (AOD) appeals for Veterans diagnosed with COVID-19. (3/24/2020)
- The Board of Veterans Appeals will accept AMA Notices of Disagreement (NOD) with a typed signature in lieu of a wet signature. (3/24/2020)
- Effective COB March 24, 2020 the National Personnel Records Center will be closing its facility in accordance with local St. Louis municipal guidance. Critical VA personnel will remain behind to continue to process priority records requests.
- A total of 631 Transition Assistance events have been cancelled to date due to installation restrictions. VBA is offering these transition related courses virtually (via eLearning) to all Servicemembers and their families.
- Issued joint guidance with Pension & Fiduciary Service and Appeals Management Office that the COVID-19 pandemic qualifies as "good cause" for granting extension requests. Specifically, if a claimant requests an extension to file forms or documents because the COVID-19 pandemic affected their ability to meet such deadlines, VBA will grant the requested extension, provided the time period expired on or after March 13, 2020 (the date the President issued a national emergency).
- Coordinated with Department of Treasury to suspend the collection of all debt owed to VA until May 31, 2020 for any Veterans seeking debt assistance due to COVID-19. This includes suspending referrals to the Treasury Offset (TOP) and Cross Servicing (CS) processes.
- VA announced today a number of actions to provide Veterans with financial, benefits and claims help amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial relief actions include the following until further notice: (4/3/2020)
- As of April 3, VBA has temporarily suspended all in-person appointments provided by VBA's contract examination vendors, where the Veteran physically reports to the medical provider's office. The contract exam vendors will continue to complete as many examinations as possible using virtual means that do not involve an in-person examination, including tele-exams and ACE. For some disabilities, in-person examinations are required and cannot be completed through an alternate method. (4/6/2020)
  - Suspending all actions on Veteran debts under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department.
  - Suspending collection action or extending repayment terms on preexisting VA debts, as the Veteran prefers.
  - For Veterans who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and need immediate action on their appeals, as opposed to a filing extension, the Board of Veterans' Appeals will Advance their

appeal on Docket (AOD). Click [here](#) to find out how to file for AOD and what documentation is required.

- Veterans Group Life Insurance: Prudential has extended grace periods by 90-days for premium payments and reinstatements, including the time allowed to submit the Attending Physician Statement (APS) required for some medical underwriting applications.
- Boston Regional Benefits Office – Implemented two-week suspension of local mail processing effective April 7, 2020, ending April 21, 2020 during the anticipated peak in COVID-19 infections in the Boston community. Employees will not be authorized to access any of the three Boston, Manchester, White River Junction (BMW) facilities without prior approval as determined by the Director or Assistant Director on a case-by-case basis. (4/7/2020)
- VA published a circular on Loan Guaranty Service to inform the public of changes due to CARES Act which requires a moratorium on foreclosures of Federally backed mortgage loans and a forbearance period for payments on such loans for borrowers who are experiencing a financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the COVID-19 emergency. (4/9/2020)
- Since the CARES act passed VA has worked with Dept. of Treasury on a solution to ensure that Veterans and Survivors who do not file tax returns and rely solely on VA benefits for income still receive stimulus checks via the CARES Act. (4/16/2020)
  - VA is securely providing beneficiary data to the IRS to ensure that no action will be required of Compensation and Pension benefit payment recipients or surviving family members receiving survivors benefits to receive their 'Economic Impact Payment' (EIP) if they do not file an annual tax return.
  - The IRS has also set up a website portal for Economic Impact Payments (EIP) if veterans, survivors or other non-filers wish to submit their information that way.
  - VA will notify press, stakeholders and Congress of these actions over the coming days.
  - This effort is complete
- On April 20, 2020, published a notice in the Federal Register which provides that, for the purpose of determining entitlement to benefits, any correspondence that is received by VA from any claimant during the period March 1, 2020 through 60 calendar days from the date the President ends the national state of emergency, that contains claims, information, or evidence, will be considered received on the date of postmark. (4/20/2020)
- On April 28, 2020, POTUS signed House Bill 6322, or Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, into Public Law 116-140. This new law gives VA additional authorities to continue GI Bill payments for the period beginning on March 1, 2020 and ending on December 21, 2020. VA is currently working to implement the changes: (5/1/2020)
  - continue payments to students participating in the Work Study Program who are furloughed or have to stop working.
  - continue to pay benefits for up to 4 weeks to GI Bill students whose classes are suspended, even if school is still open.
  - restoration of entitlement for GI Bill students who lose credit due to school closure or schools' suspension of training.
  - extend the delimiting date for Montgomery GI Bill and Post-9/11 G Bill students if they are unable to attend training due to COVID-19.
- Based on VA's collaboration with IRS and Treasury, approximately 396K Veterans and survivors will receive nearly \$475 million in economic impact payments this week. VA is still working to enact solutions to ensure that Veterans who live in a U.S. Territory, have a fiduciary or have a foreign address are able to receive an Economic Impact Payment. (5/12/2020)



- VBA will resume in-person medical disability examinations for its compensation and pension programs within the areas covered by the 20 Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Lead Sites identified in its phased reopening plan. VBA examination vendors will implement operation plans using current CDC guidelines for clinical sanitation and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use. In-person examinations will only be scheduled with the consent of the Veteran, and VBA will hold a Veteran's benefit claim for later exam scheduling and a decision if consent is withheld out of concern for exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

## **COVID Response NCA**

- Effective Monday, March 23, 2020, committal services and the rendering of military funeral honors will not be conducted until further notice at VA national cemeteries. Immediate family members (limited to no more than 10 individuals) of the deceased may witness the interment if requested. Currently, approximately 1174 families have postponed scheduled services citing COVID-19 concerns.
- In consultation with DoD, NCA has discontinued disinterment efforts with the Defense POW/MIA Accountability Agency (DoD) at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) effective immediately and until further notice in order to focus NCA resources on essential burial operations.
- Certain VA national cemeteries, located on active military installations, are being impacted by changes in base access (Fort Richardson, AK; Leavenworth, KS). Due to a change in base operating status, the general public is restricted from accessing the cemetery located on the base. NCA has coordinated with base authorities to ensure funeral homes are able to access the cemetery so direct casket/cremation interment operations are still available (without the option to "witness". (3/27/2020)
- Starting Thursday, April 9, 2020, NCA will no longer provide the option for families to witness interments at Calverton National Cemetery to help improve workload efficiency and increase the capacity of interment operations at this cemetery, which is located in the NYC epicenter. This change is being communicated to funeral homes in NY and families with interments scheduled on this date and beyond.
- National Cemetery Administration: Effective, Wednesday, April 15, 2020, witnessing family members will now be asked to view the interment from their cars or the road very near their cars. This change will further promote social distancing at national cemeteries and will be communicated to the funeral home community via Gov Delivery; online and to the Hill via OCLA. Families may continue to visit the gravesite in the days following the interment consistent with CDC guidelines and local travel restrictions. (4/13/2020)

## **Emergency Management/Fourth Mission**

- CAO and VA's Director of Operations and Emergency Management communicated with HHS to ensure VA's Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needs are prioritized. HHS has agreed to release a stop gap quantity of N95 protective masks to VA this week. (March 16, 2020)
- Deployed 16 Nursing Assistants to assist with screening of AMCITs repatriated (all have been demobilized)
- Deployed a Liaison Officer to the HHS Secretary's Operations Center (SOC) to assist with response coordination.

- Conducted analysis of VA Medical facilities contingency data to identify locations for potential COVID-19 dedicated facilities.
- VHA has detailed four personnel to FEMA HQ to support the operations: Dr. John Areno, VISN16 Chief Medical Officer & Pulmonary/Critical Care physician; Mary Mather, IPEC/National Program Manager for LTC; Andrew Centineo, PL&O; Michael Forgy, OEM.
- All Area Emergency Managers are in place at each FEMA region.
- VA is concerned with the national ventilator shortage and is working with FEMA Task Force (TF) to find other sources of supply. VA will receive 25 ventilators this week and an additional 25 next week.
- VA activating DEMPS for New Orleans (160 Clinical Staff) and New York (50 Nurses). We will begin moving people there starting today.
- Collaborating with Peace Corps who has 7,000 volunteers ready to work (due to evacuations); working with them on open position advertising and employment opportunities to support VA's mission during this national emergency and beyond.
- VA identified a potential shortage of 1K nurses in certain hotspots of the nation and is working a combination of solutions to include:
  - Rehire of retired nurses
  - Hire of new employees through special hiring authorities and waivers
  - DEMPS moves from other non-stressed areas in VA
- Acting PDUSH met with NYC Emergency Management Commissioner to discuss need for HHS tasking, sharing of data, and the process for referral of COVID positive and negative patients, preferably Veterans, to be admitted at VA facilities.
- Area Emergency Managers supporting repatriation centers:
  - Travis and Lackland demobilizing today (3/26/2020)
  - Dobbins and Miramar will demobilize tomorrow (3/27/2020)
- Growing the roster for Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System (DEMPS) volunteers for deployment to New York City and New Orleans.
- NY Harbor VA Hospital received four civilian patients from Elmhurst Hospital. One was in respiratory failure and admitted to the ICU. Information about the other three is pending. (3/29/2020)
  - Four to five additional patients are expected overnight from Elmhurst Hospital.
  - The five patients that were to be transferred from Lincoln Hospital have not arrived yet.
- Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System Deployments (Various Specialties) (4/1/2020)
  - (27) Personnel being processed for deployment.
  - (14) Personnel deployed/on the ground at various locations.
  - (2) VISNS requested personnel deployed through DEMPS
- JAVITS NY Medical Station and USNS Comfort Transfer guidance received
- Mobile Vet Center Deployment Update (4/4/2020)
  - New York, NY (Deployment Started)  
Operation Gotham at the Javits Center in New York City began to receive patients on the afternoon of 31 March 2020. Vet Center staff connected with 64 Service members over the course of the deployment. Contact has been made with 2 civilians.
  - Pasadena, CA (Deployment Started)  
Operation started on 1 April 2020 and ended April 3. Minimal contact will seek a better location.
  - Portland, OR (Deployment Started)  
Operation started on 31 March 2020 and staff are located in a shopping center in Portland, OR. Vet Center staff connected with 40 Veterans, Service members and families over the course of the deployment. Contact has been made with 12 civilians

- Altoona, PA (Deployment Started)  
MVC stationed at VAMC to assist with screening. Veteran Outreach Program Specialist on site.
- Dayton, OH (Under Development)  
Request Mobile Vet Center at Dayton Medical Center to assist with COVID screening, will begin Monday April 6
- Developing requirements for Morgue Expansion Capabilities. (4/4/20)
- Working to identify medical consumables/equipment for recently purchased Field ICU Unit. Location for deployment of Unit still under consideration. (4/4/20)
- VA sent a list of critical PPE supplies with requested quantities to RADM Polowczyk, Supply Chain Sub-Task Force Director for consideration and prioritization. (4/5/20)
- Developing language for HHS sub-task on FEMA Mission Assignment to VHA for \$1.5M in pharmaceutical support to Javits shelter in NYC.
- Mobile Vet Center (MVC) Update: (4/7/20)
  - Altoona, PA (Deployment Started). MVC stationed at VAMC to assist with COVID-19 screening. Veteran Outreach Program Specialist on site.
  - Dayton, OH (Deployment Under Development). Request for MVC stationed at VAMC to assist with COVID-19 screening.
  - New York, NY (Deployment Paused). Vet Center staff have connected with 99 service members over the course of the deployment. Contact has been made with 2 civilians
  - Pasadena, CA and Portland, OR deployments ended
- Identified a total of 20 tribal governments that have Emergency Declarations
- VA developing “live” map journal to model next VA “hot spots” for our healthcare system. (4/8/20)
- Continued development of plan on how VA might assist IHS and other tribal nations health systems. (4/10/20)
- Determining the need of resourcing second order of trailers for fatality management. (4/10/2020)
- Update on Mask sterilization efforts with Battelle: (4/10/20)
  - Sites either currently running or will be running within two weeks: Stoneybrook, NY; Brooklyn, NY; Plain City, OH; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Washington, DC
  - Planned future states: Connecticut, New Jersey, Indiana, Florida, Texas, Michigan
- DOD approved MilAir transport to send nurses from Maine and Washington State to New York City. The mission is underway. (4/26/20)
- VA is sending is sending at least 1 NP and 1 Nurse to the IHS Shiprock Clinic to assist with the Navajo COVID-19 crisis. (4/26/20)
- VA has an increased need for Oxygen concentrators and portable ventilators. FEMA is being prioritized over VA and these are becoming increasingly hard to obtain. Update: VA began discussions with manufacturers regarding these items today. The issue is that the vendors received 10 months’ worth of demand in three weeks and it has depleted current inventory. Vendors have increased product lines and estimate mid-May before supply availability. (4/23/20)

### **Construction, Contracting and Supply Chain**

- VA’s Financial Services Center established an Emergency Buyers sub-group of 13,000 Government Purchase Cardholders within VA’s Amazon Business Account providing special access to select vendors for critically needed supplies in accordance with the Chief Acquisition Officer’s COVID-19 supply chain efforts

- During the COVID-19 emergency, private sector entities have offered to donate equipment and supplies needed to protect personnel from contracting COVID-19. VA OGC worked a delegation of approval to VISN Directors to ensure efficient approval of donated gifts.
- Construction projects in Massachusetts, California, New York, Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico have been either stopped completely or activities severely curtailed by this national emergency and shelter in place orders.
- US Army Corps of Engineers will visit the former Denver medical facility to assess the building's viability for FEMA/HHS use.
- On March 24<sup>th</sup>, CAO reported to VA OIG a vendor in Louisiana who is offering medical supplies and equipment up to 1000% above average cost and likely does not meet FDA guidelines.
- VA working with various vendors for purchase of Chloroquine Phosphate and ventilators.
  - Use of the new Open Opportunities, a governmentwide platform offering professional development opportunities to current federal employees, as a central location for federal agencies to post details, microdetails, and/or temporary assignments.
- VA OGC partnered with the VA Voluntary Service to create a universal gift form for distribution within VA listing general departmental needs during the COVID-19 emergency. Each VAMC Director can solicit and accept the listed donations pursuant to VHA Directive 4721, VHA General Post Fund – Gifts and Donations. (3/27/20)
- On March 30<sup>th</sup>, the Denver Logistics Center (DLC) will receive a shipment of 500 iPads for the VA Video Connect (VVC) Community. These iPads are designed to allow “skype” type appointments between the Veteran patient and the Care Provider. The DLC will prepare the iPads for immediate shipment to fulfill backorders.
- Invocation of the Defense Production Act (DPA) resulted in confusion in the commercial sector as to how to prioritize orders, resulting in delays and cancellations on orders and deliveries to VA. Under the DPA, the FEMA Task Force, used its authority to divert materiel originally offered to VA for delivery to the SNS.
  - VA orders for masks, gowns, gloves, and PAPP have been cancelled by our vendors. This is high risk for not only our enterprise, but for the Administration as our hospitals will be without supplies starting late this week.
  - FEMA and HHS have been made aware; VA is awaiting resolution from them.

\*Issue has since been resolved
- VA Acquisition Office is working with the VHA's Care in the Community Program Office to establish a Global Nurse Advice Line contract to support increased phone consults for Veteran care in support of Coronavirus.
- VA contracted with Battelle for use of their Critical Care Decontamination Systems (CCDS) to sanitize N95 masks for Brooklyn, Manhattan, and East Orange, NY medical centers. Great partnership with HHS and FDA led to the approval to reuse masks 20x after sanitization. (4/3/20)
- VA has administered more than 18,900 tests and has more than 3,000 additional tests on hand. (4/3/20)
- Contract awarded for Alternate Care Sites-Four (4) 125 bed, soft-sided, portable medical structure. Awaiting delivery and selection of sites. (4/3/20)
- Contract awarded for Mobile Field Hospital. Awaiting delivery and selection of site. (4/3/20)
- National Acquisition Center's (NAC) Service & Distribution Center is providing additional warehouse space for VHA ordered and FEMA provided PPE products; VHA to identify space required and delivery schedules. (4/6/20)
- VA was prepared to accept a donation of 1 million N-95 masks and other PPE from Salesforce. However, FEMA General Counsel determined that the donation was too large for VA to accept.



Secretary Wilkie sent a formal letter to FEMA Administrator asking for authority to accept the donation OR purchase the materials directly. (4/9/20)

- VA awarded an \$8M urgent sole source contract to SDV Office Systems for 97 Tablo® Helodialysis Systems for treating patients with COVID-19 infection. The contractor will deliver as many units as possible before July 31, 2020. The need is particularly pressing for patients with end-stage kidney disease being treated with intermittent hemodialysis (HD). (4/10/20)
- VA request to POTUS for Advanced Payment Authority was approved and signed by POTUS. (4/11/20)
- VA completed a temporary delegation which will apply to the Federal Supply Schedule for Healthcare Staffing Services' ceiling price determination for field contracting officers to use. This delegation, which is available for use until July 1, 2020, will provide immediate nursing staff augmentation for our medical centers. (4/11/20)
- VA reported to OIG regarding a potential case of price gouging. DOJ issued a press release on April 10th concerning the arrest of Christopher Parris, who attempted to sell VA \$750 million of nonexistent masks and other PPE: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/georgia-man-arrested-attempting-defraud-department-veterans-affairs-multimillion-dollar-covid>
- VA has partnered with Facebook to provide more than 7,400 Facebook portal devices. The American Red Cross Military Veteran Caregiver Network will store and ship the devices to qualifying Veterans in pairs. Devices are available today (4/15/2020) for Veterans and their caregivers and families to reduce isolation, improve mental health, wellness, and social connectedness at home. (4/15/20)
- VA acquired the former Garland-Baylor, Scott & White hospital, April 3, to increase its capacity to care for Veterans and support the department's response to COVID-19. The 470,000 square foot facility was donated by Baylor, Scott & White and will eventually serve as an outpatient and specialty care clinic within the VA North Texas Health Care System. The hospital will be able to open Monday April 20. (4/17/20)
- VA National Acquisition Center FSS coordinated with National Association of State Procurement Officials (NAPSO) authorizing State and Local governments to procure Covid-19 support using FSS vendors/contracts. (4/17/20)
- The Strategic Acquisition Center awarded a purchase order for 5 million, 3-ply disposable medical masks (non-N95) valued at \$2.8M. The contract was signed on April 22, 2020. (4/23/2020)
- VA may now utilize the contract HHS funded through DLA to receive N95 mask decontamination and transportation services from Battelle without reimbursing HHS (no cost to supplemental funding). (4/24/20)
- On 5/4/20, the Strategic Acquisition Center awarded a contract to Hanes for 2.4M cloth masks valued at \$1.9M. This contract has ten optional Contract Line Item Number (CLINs) with the possibility to supply ten million additional masks. (5/5/20)
- On 5/1/20, the National Acquisition Center's Federal Supply Schedule Service (FSS) awarded a contract for COVID-19 testing to Eurofins Viracor. The vendor offers the following capacity: 10,000 daily COVID-19 testing to VA nationwide. (5/6/20)
- VA will be accepting a donation of 800,000 face shields from Apple. The shipment should arrive in the next two weeks. (5/6/20)
- VA successfully accepted 500,000 masks from the Republic of Korea (ROK) on 5/12/2020. This donation will help support our efforts to ensure Veterans and Employee safety as we continue to combat COVID-19. (5/12/2020)
- Strategic Acquisition Center (SAC) awarded a contract to M. Hidary and Company for 1M Level II Gowns valued at \$7.12M.
- VA's National Acquisition Center's (NAC) Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) Service awarded a new COVID-19 antibody test (SARS-CoV-2-SEROLOGY (COVID19) Antibody (IGG), Immunoassay) contract

to Quest Diagnostics. This contract became effective May 13, 2020 and it has the capacity to perform 150,000 tests per night. (5/18/2020)



**From:** Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris)  
**Sent:** Sun, 31 May 2020 18:23:29 +0000  
**To:** Tucker, Brooks  
**Cc:** Powers, Pamela (b)(6)  
**Subject:** VA\_5.31.20\_COVID 19 Daily Report  
**Attachments:** VA\_5.31.20\_COVID 19 Daily Report.docx

Brooks,

This is essentially a negative report.

- No new MAs, no media/outreach, no new case data available for Veterans or Employees.

**COVID-19 – Agency Response**  
**5/31/2020**  
**Department of Veterans Affairs**

**Administrative Actions, Waivers, and Other Programmatic Change that Impact Agency Provision of Service or Mission Delivery (Externally Facing)**

- VA has received 45 Mission Assignments during COVID-19, 37 are still active, 8 have been closed
- **Update on FEMA Active VA Mission**
  - VA NY Harbor: 111 patients, 79 discharges, 18 deaths
  - VA New Jersey: 31 patients, 19 discharge, 7 deaths
  - VA San Francisco: 1 discharge, no deaths
  - VA Miami: 1 discharge, no deaths
  - VA Ann Arbor: 36 patients, 21 discharges, 6 deaths
  - Detroit: 22 patients, 15 discharge, 7 death
  - Albuquerque: 6 patients from Navajo Nation, previously in Gallup IHS facility. 4 discharged, 1 death.
  - VA Chicago (Hines, Jesse Brown Marion) – 24 patients, 6 discharges, 1 death
  - Spokane, WA – 2 patients, no discharges, no deaths
  - Hew Haven CT – Homeless Outreach Assistance, 3 clinicians
  - Oregon / Roseburg VAMC - 25 Med/Surg beds. No patients received at this time.
  - New Jersey State Veterans Homes (Paramus & Meno Park) – Nurses, staffing, telehealth, and supplies.
  - Florida Nursing Home Support: Starting today, VA will begin providing staffing and technical support to 12 non-VA nursing homes in Florida, a state that has seen COVID-19 emerge among these vulnerable populations. More than 80 physicians, nurses and nurses aides will begin rotations at these homes to provide direct care and advice about controlling infectious disease.
  - Portland Oregon Beds - 25 short term acute care (med/surg) and 5 intensive care (ICU) beds at the Portland VAMC for non-covid and covid-positive patients.
  - Washington State Veteran Home support and testing support
  - Alabama - Bill Nichols State Veterans Home in Alexander City, AL, provide 4 registered nurses and 5 nursing assistants
  - Pennsylvania - Nursing Home Staff - Spring City, PA Staff RN/LPN (20)
  - Delaware – Department of Public Health Staff Support. VA is sending 10 RN/LPN/NA to cover 3 nursing homes
  - Wisconsin – Provide 2 pharmacists and 2 respiratory therapists to a mission in Milwaukee
  - Nebraska – VA will provide testing support in Omaha
  - Des Moines/Iowa City – 20 med/surg or ICU beds, no patients received to date
  - Iowa – VA to provide staffing to support State Veteran Home at Marshalltown, Iowa. Staffing to include RN (4); LPN (16); NA (27)
  - California - Nursing Home Staff support. Four 6-person teams to provide nursing consultation support to long term care (nursing home) facilities in Los Angeles County region
  - Illinois Nursing Home Support – VA will provide 60 of our Community Living Center beds for Illinois civilian nursing home patients. The beds will be provided at the Edward J. Hines Medical (Chicago), Danville Medical Center (Danville) and/or Lovell Federal Health Care Center (North Chicago).

- New Jersey – VA to provide 4 licensed social workers to support patients in State Veterans homes; specific location TBD
- Texas – VA will provide State Veterans Homes Testing and Support, will also provide staff and support services to assist Texas Veterans Land Board with collection and processing of biological samples for testing and analysis. Services will be provided for patients and staff at state veterans homes in Floresville, TX and Temple, TX.
- VA also extended our liaisons detail to the FEMA National Response Coordination Center until June 3, 2020.
- Support to Indian Health Centers and Navajo Nation: 15 personnel for a 30-day period. (May 5 – June 5). IHS Indian Medical Center in Gallup NM, seven (7) ER nurses and 2 RNs; IHS Crownpoint, Hospital two (2) RN's; IHS Kayenta Health Center, two (2) RNs; IHS Northern Navajo Medical Center, two (2) RNs
- Navajo Nation Nursing Support – Tuba City. VA will provide (6) Med Surge Nurses (RNs), (6) Emergency Room RNs and (4) Intensive Care Unit Nurses (RNs)
- North Carolina – VA will provide testing services in support of vulnerable residents/patients and staff at licensed care facilities.
- North Carolina - Staff Support to nursing home including: 1 van driver, 3 Community Living Center nurses, 2 infection control nurses, 1 social work, 1 public affairs officer, 4 nurse screeners, 1 Administrative lead, 4 RNs, and 4 LPNs.
- New Jersey: VA will provide (5) teams of 10 nursing staff to assist with COVID-19 outbreaks in private nursing homes. We will be providing clinical staffing support, and education and consultation on infection control procedures
- Rhode Island: 12 nursing assistants to provide patient care at State Veterans Home in Bristol
- Oregon: VA will provide long term care support teams to the State of Oregon to conduct assessments and training at long term care facilities at multiple locations throughout the state.
- Minnesota – VA will provide up to 50 RN/LPN personnel to support direct patient care at long term care facilities for up to 30 days.
- Mississippi – VA will provide staff and support services to assist Mississippi State Veterans Homes with fit testing and proper utilization of PPE. VHA will provide two teams of 4 to provide training and education of PPE; an industrial hygienist for fit testing and up to 8 RNs.
- Mississippi – State Veteran Home Staff Support. VA will provide registered nurses, 2 licensed practical nurses and 2 certified nursing assistants or similar
- Maryland - providing two staffing teams of RNs, LPNs, NAs and a nurse manager to the Charlotte Hall State Veterans Home. The SVH has a total of 96 residents that tested positive, with most asymptomatic \*New Mission Assignment

#### **CARES ACT IMPLEMENTATION – KEY ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES**

**(Please also include activities related to the implementation of other COVID-related supplementary funding legislation, including P.L. 116-127 and P.L. 116-123)**

- CARES Act, Section 4022. Foreclosure Moratorium and Consumer Right to Request Forbearance: notified OMB's Veterans Affairs and Defense Health Branch of interpretation concerns to ensure that all federal housing agencies impacted by these sections are consistent in implementing the new law, as requested by OMB.
- OIT will complete circuit installs at all four gateways by April 3<sup>rd</sup>, doubling network bandwidth to 160GBs
- OIT has approved 31 COVID-19 Memos valued at \$371.02M

- Working with VHA, VBA, OIT to prepare spend plans and regular reporting templates for CARES Act funding.
- VBA Received \$13M in GOE supplemental funding for COVID-19 related issues such as purchase of equipment and supplies to support telework posture and employee health and safety as well as scheduled deep cleaning of buildings/offices occupied by VBA personnel
- Office of Information Technology CARES Act Supplemental Funding apportionment (\$2.15B) approved by OMB. Funds are available for execution.
- VHA to begin initial distribution to the Healthcare Networks of \$5.3 billion (from the total \$14.4 billion) in Medical Services funding from the CARES Act Supplemental based upon:
  - FY 2020 Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation (VERA) Model
  - VHA's Bed Management System
  - VHA's Managerial Cost Accounting (MCA) system
- As of 6 April 2020, VA reported \$768.1 million in total COVID -19 obligations, an increase of \$371 million from 2 April 2020.
- OIT has Increased telehealth capacity by 15% and can support 11K concurrent sessions
- As of April 9, VA obligated \$768M in total COVID -19 obligations and anticipates surpassing \$1B in COVID-19 related obligations by the end of this week.
  - Examples of VA Purchases
    - Centralized Contracting: 60 awards valued at \$338,803,651.
    - National Acquisition Center (NAC): \$2,499,317 (Pharmacy/Medical Equipment)
    - Technology Acquisition Center (TAC): \$308,789,039 (IT Equipment)
    - Strategic Acquisition Center (SAC): \$27,515,605 (Medical Surgical Supplies)
    - Veterans Health Administration (VHA) at the regional and local level: 1,633 awards valued at \$519,933,615 (Medical Surgical Supplies)
    - Contracts to support national purchases of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and medical equipment (e.g., ventilators) as well as costs associated with level-setting PPE and medical equipment throughout the country
    - Travel, housing, and other support for employees deploying to other medical centers
    - Salary costs incurred to hire and retain staff to support the pandemic
    - Medical facility costs mostly related to reconfiguring space to open additional beds and creating negative pressure rooms
    - Costs associated with Community Care to cover increased demand in the community by Veterans for both COVID-19 related and non-COVID related medical care
- As of April 14, VA obligated \$959 million in total COVID -19 obligations.
- As of April 21, VA's COVID-19 total obligations are \$1.160 billion:
  - VHA obligations: \$841 million
  - OIT obligations: \$319 million
  - To date, \$49 million has been spent on Telehealth capabilities and enhancements, which include \$4 million in bandwidth upgrades and \$42 million to purchase 38K mobile devices and 22K laptops.
- VHA spending on State Home Grants, PPE to state homes, etc.
  - **State Homes:** To date, 23 grant packages totaling \$23 million have been received for COVID-19 related projects. Statutory and legislative challenges in the current program are impacting VA's ability to provide the funds before 1 October 2020. Legislative relief is necessary.

- **Medical Facilities:** To date, \$170 million has been distributed to the Office of Emergency Management in response to operational issues and overtime pay, and \$40 million has been distributed to facilities for expansion of inpatient bed capabilities to include HVAC equipment for negative-pressure rooms and engineering staff overtime.
  - **PPE to State Homes:** VHA facilities considering a request from a State Veteran Home for PPE must take into account the impact that providing PPE to State Veteran Homes has on VHA facility operational stock.
- As of Apr 28, VA's COVID-19 total obligations are \$1.531 billion (+\$371 million from Apr 22)
  - VHA obligations: \$1.21 billion (+\$369 million), including recent obligations for:
    - \$192 million in grants for the homelessness programs (Grant and Per Diem and Supportive Services for Veterans Families); \$52 million for supplies including protective gear such as masks and gowns; and \$66 million for medical equipment
  - OIT obligations: \$321 million (+\$2 million), including:
    - Expansion of Telehealth to include 38,000 mobile devices and 22,000 laptops; doubled bandwidth at 30 sites; hardware upgrades to increase video teleconferencing systems by 1,200 concurrent calls; and increased cloud capability to increase capacity by 6,000 concurrent calls
- As of May 5, VA's COVID-19 total obligations are \$1.688 billion (+\$156 million from Apr 28)
  - VHA obligations: \$1.326 billion (+\$117 million); Significant procurements this week include \$6.7 million for PPE and \$4 million in testing support for COVID-19.
  - OIT obligations: \$357 million (+\$36 million)
  - VBA obligations: \$3 million (+\$3 million)
- As of May 12, VA's COVID-19 **total obligations** are \$1.823 billion (+\$135 million from May 5)
  - VHA obligations: \$1.427 billion (+\$101 million)
  - OIT obligations: \$391 million (+\$34 million)
    - Significant procurements include \$30.64 million to increase support/installation of IT equipment in call centers
  - VBA obligations: \$3.7 million (+\$110 thousand)
    - Significant procurements include \$121.5 thousand on supplies and \$72.6 thousand on facility deep cleaning
- As of May 12, VA's COVID-19 **total expenditures** are \$610 million
- As of May 19, VA's COVID-19 total obligations are \$1.951 billion (+\$128 million from May 12):
  - VHA obligations: \$1.530 billion (+\$103 million)
  - OIT obligations: \$415 million (+\$24 million)
  - Significant procurements include on-boarding 27 temporary civilian hires; hardware to support Activations and Cyber Security; and additional laptops/cell phones to support increases in VHA telehealth/telemedicine.
- As of May 26, VA's COVID-19 total expenditures are \$721 million (+\$111 million from May 12)
- As of May 26, VA's COVID-19 **total obligations** are \$2.194 billion (+\$243 million from May 19)
  - VHA obligations: \$1.662 billion (+\$132 million)
  - OIT obligations: \$524 million (+\$109 million)
  - VBA obligations: \$3.9 million (+\$495 thousand)
    - Significant procurements include: \$61.9 thousand on travel and per diem for repatriating staff and their families from Manila; \$36.4 thousand on supplies (bulk procurements of plexiglass shields, hand sanitizers, masks, gloves, disinfectant wipes, etc.); and \$7.7 thousand on facility deep cleanings.
  - Gen Admin (HR&A/OSP) obligations: \$188 thousand (+\$188 thousand)

- Significant procurements include: overtime; area disinfecting; barrier installation; disinfecting agents; and PPE.

**Major upcoming decisions that require POTUS or Task Force-level decisions (only the biggest, most sensitive items should be included here, many agencies may not have anything to report in this section)**

- **NSTR**

**Guidance, Communication and Outreach with Stakeholders**

- SECVA Media:
  - No media today
- SECVA calls to Governors or Members of Congress on COVID-19 related issues:
  - No Phone calls today
- VA Issues the following press release
  - No media release today
- **Other Notable Responses**
  - Note: No new Veteran Data is available due to a system error, reporting will resume Monday June 1. Below is reflective of May 28.
  - 11,618 Total Positive Veteran COVID-19 Cases (+114 cases from yesterday)
  - 1,599 Positive Veteran Cases (96 cases from yesterday)
  - 8,861 Convalescent Veteran Cases (+9 cases from yesterday due to small reporting error). Convalescent cases are defined as 14 days post positive test results for outpatients and discharged status for inpatients. These are essentially “recovered” cases.
  - Veteran Deaths: 1,158 veterans have died from COVID-19 (+9 from yesterday)
  - 93 Active Veteran cases remain greater New York City Area (Bronx, Hudson Valley, Northport, Brooklyn)
  - Other areas with 50 or more active veteran cases include Washington, DC (64), Chicago (79), Albany (56), New Jersey (50)
- **1,156 VA Positive Employee cases**
  - No new employee case data available today
  - This is an increase of -7 cases from VA’s last available data
  - The largest clusters of employee cases are our New Orleans Medical Center with 188 employees testing positive and our Greater New York City Area Medical Centers (Bronx, Hudson Valley, Northport, Brooklyn) with 265 employees testing positive
  - Other employee hot spots at our Medical Centers include: New Jersey (42) Chicago (39), Washington, DC (32), Shreveport (20), Boston (41), Dallas (64), Baltimore (29), Portland (27)
  - To date there have been 32 employee deaths: 1 in Ann Arbor, 1 in Detroit, 3 in Indianapolis, 3 in Reno, 1 in Shreveport, 1 in Houston, 1 in Los Angeles. 1 in West Palm Beach, 2 in the Bronx (NY), 1 Manhattan (NY), 1 in Denver and 1 in Brockton (Boston), 1 in Washington, DC and 1 in Northport (NY), 1 in Miami and 1 in New Orleans, 1 in Wilkes-Barre (PA), 5 in New



Jersey and 1 in Loma Linda (CA), 1 in Queens (NY) and 1 in Bedford (MA), 1 in Fayetteville NC and 1 in Syracuse, New York.

### **Historical Input**

#### **MEDIA, NEWS RELEASE, OUTREACH TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND GOVERNORS, OUTREACH TO VA STAKEHOLDERS**

- **The Secretary of Veterans Affairs had the following interviews with press:**

- Jeff “Goldy” Goldberg, WFNC Radio
- NBC 4 w/ Scott MacFarlane
- Jim Blythe, Alliance 4 the Brave (Dallas)
- Kirsti Marohn, Minnesota Public Radio
- Ware Morning Show (Radio), San Antonio
- Fox News Rundown (Taped)
- Wake Up Tucson, AZ
- Fred Thys, WBUR Radio (NPR Boston)
- Moon Griffon Show (LA radio)
- Leo Shane of Military Times (print)
- Pensacola’s Morning News (FL radio)
- WWL Radio (New Orleans, LA radio)
- The Drive with Lee Matthews (Oklahoma City, OK radio)
- Kevin Miller in the Morning (Boise, ID radio)
- The Marc Cox morning Show (St Louis, MO radio)
- Larry O’Connor, WMAL (DC/CA radio)
- KOAN Radio (Anchorage, AK)
- Montana Talks Radio.
- COX Media w/ Samantha Manning
- The Ross Kaminsky Show (CO radio)
- Lisa Rein, The Washington Post
- The Conservative Circus (Phoenix radio)
- The Bob Rose Show (FL radio)
- Charlie James Show (SC radio)
- Mobile Mornings (AL radio)
- The Mark Sterling Show (NC radio)
- Fox Across America (Fox News Radio)
- Richmond’s Morning News (VA radio)
- Ringside Politics (LA radio/tv)
- The Erick Erickson Show (GA radio)
- The Sam Malone Show (Houston, TX Radio)
- The Dale Jackson Show (Huntsville, AL Radio)
- AM Tampa Bay Radio
- The John Fredericks Radio Show
- The Matt and Aunie Show (AL radio)
- The Schilling Show (VA radio)
- The Annie Frey Show (St. Louis radio)
- The Wilkow Majority on Sirius XM radio

- Bernie and Sid in the Morning (NYC radio)
- Tom Jordan and Roberta Jasina (Detroit radio)
- The Frank Beckmann Show (Detroit radio)
- The Heidi Harris Show (Las Vegas radio)
- The Steve Gruber Show (Lansing/Flint, MI radio)
- Morning Talk with Martha Zoller (Atlanta, GA radio)
- The Brian Kilmeade Show (Fox News Radio)
- The David Webb Show (SiriusXM radio)
- The Todd Starnes Show (Fox News Radio)
- Joe Piscopo in the Morning (NYC Radio)
- South Florida's First News with Jimmy Cefalo (Miami/Ft. Lauderdale Radio)
- The Bill Spadea Show (NJ Radio)
- The Kuhner Report (Boston Radio)
- Mornings with Brian Haldane (Baton Rouge, LA Radio)
- Pat Kime of Military.com.
- Ben Kesling of The Wall Street Journal
- The Joyce Kaufman Show (South Florida radio)
- Quil Lawrence of NPR
- MSNBC Live with Stephanie Ruhle
- WTKR TV Norfolk, VA
- KSWB TV San Diego
- WCAU-TV Philadelphia
- WGN-TV National
- WFAA-TV Dallas
- Midday News with James MacKay (Boston Radio)
- JJ Green of WTOP (DC Radio)
- Liz MacDonald on Fox Business
- Martha MacCallum of Fox News
- AM Tampa Bay radio
- Lars Larson (radio)
- The Fayetteville Observer
- Prairie Public Radio (Fargo, ND)
- KTTH Seattle (radio)
- The Birmingham Fox Affiliate (local Birmingham, AL tv)
- Shannon Bream
- Nebraska Public Radio
- WTOP Radio (DC)
- Think Show, Dallas NPR
- WESA FM Radio (Pittsburgh, PA).
- KBST Radio (Big Spring, TX).
- KOKI-TV Tulsa, OK.
- WCIV-TV Charleston, SC.
- KALB-TV Alexandria, LA.
- KSNV-TV Las Vegas, NV.
- Fox and Friends First this morning.
- WLBT-TV Jackson, MS.
- KPBS-TV San Diego, CA.
- WGN Radio.

- Newsmax.
- Fox News Radio
- America's HQ on Fox News <https://video.foxnews.com/v/6158768721001#sp=show-clips>
- Ed Henry on Fox News
- ABC News' Martha Raddatz
- CBS Evening News' Jan Crawford

- **VA Has Issued the Following News Releases**

- VA extends financial, benefits and claims relief to Veterans  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5412>
- Secretary Wilkie thanked Wounded Warrior Project for \$10 million commitment to aid Veterans  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5421>
- VA, Facebook and American Red Cross provide Portal video calling devices to Veterans, caregivers, and families <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5422>
- VA Tele-mental health visits on the rise amid COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5418>
- VA Mobilizes 3D Printing Resources nationwide to fight COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5419>
- VA Announces, "Fourth Mission" Actions to Help American Respond to COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5420>
- VA Partners with IRS/Dept. of Treasury to Deliver Economic Impact Payments  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5423>
- VA's telehealth system grows as Veterans have access to unlimited data while using VA Video Connect <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5426>
- VA, DoD implement new capability for bidirectional sharing of health records with community partners <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5425>
- VA acquires Texas community hospital to fight COVID-19 and care for Veterans in the future  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5424>
- Timeline on how VA prepared for COVID-19 outbreak and continues to keep Veterans safe  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5427>
- VA researchers to study COVID-19 in aging Veterans with dementia  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5428>
- VA health app now available to Veterans across all mobile and web platforms <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5430>
- VA hiring jumps 37% in response to COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5429>
- Joint Statement from DHS and VA on Continued Collaboration Throughout COVID-19 Pandemic  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5431>
- VA establishes the department's first history office <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5432>
- VA joins XPRIZE Pandemic Alliance to combat COVID-19 and future outbreaks  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5433>
- VA Trust in Veteran Health Care Rises above 90% for the first time  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5435>
- VA expands access to virtual hearings  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5436>

- VA names Brooks Tucker Acting Chief of Staff  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5437>
- VA participating in drug, plasma trials in fight against COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5438>
- VA is protecting and Serving All of America  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5439>
- VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry reaches a major milestone  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5441>
- VA Enhances National COVID-19 Reporting Summary Tool  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5440>
- VA Gets Boost from CARES Act to provide emergency assistance to Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness during COVID-19 crisis.  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5442>
- Process for Charting the Course - Agency Plan on Returning to Pre-COVID-19 Operations <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5443>
- Post-COVID-19 Operations Plan to VA Leaders and Staff.  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5443>
- VA and Parkinson's Foundation partner to help Veterans Living with Parkinson's disease  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5444>
- VA Kicks off Mental Health Campaign emphasizing mental health support  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5445>
- VA and Parkinson's Foundation partner to help Veterans Living with Parkinson's disease  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5444>
- VA Kicks off Mental Health Campaign emphasizing mental health support  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5445>
- CARES Act helping VA boost protections for Veterans  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5415>
- VA appeals production at all time high  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5414>
- VA's Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System provides surge-support to combat COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5417>
- VA accepts Mask Donation from South Korea to Assist with COVID-19 efforts, longtime partner and ally sends 500,000 masks <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5447>
- VA Releases New COVID Coach Mobile App  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5448>
- VA National Cemeteries to Commemorate Memorial Day  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5450>
- VA reports rising patient capacity, stable supplies and staffing 8 weeks into COVID Emergency  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5449>
- VA, multiple agencies launch joint Mortgage and Housing Assistance Website for Americans Impacted by COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5451>
- VA Encourages Donations to help homeless veterans or those at risk of homelessness during COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5453>
- VA lead facilities reintroduce health care services while ensuring a safe environment  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5454>
- Secretary Wilkie Memorial Day Message 2020

<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5455>

- Gary Sinise Foundation Donates Meals to VA Hospital Staff During COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5456>
- VA Conducts Deep Dive Study into effects of COVID-19 on Veterans  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5457>
- VA Resume Compensation and Pension Exams at select locations  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5458>
- White House Order to End union subsidies expands clinical space for Veterans, nets \$1.4 billion for taxpayers  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5459>

- **The Secretary of Veterans Affairs made calls to the following Governors to discuss State Veteran Home support and other COVID-19 issues:**

- Maine – Janet Mills
- Oregon – Kate Brown
- Alabama – Kay Ivey
- New Hampshire – Chris Sununu
- New Jersey – Phil Murphy
- South Carolina – Henry McMaster
- Oklahoma – Kevin Stitt
- Georgia – Brian Kemp
- South Dakota – Kristi Noem
- Tennessee – Bill Lee
- Arkansas – Asa Hutchinson
- Ohio – Mike Dewine
- Iowa – Kim Reynolds
- Kansas – Laura Kelly
- Florida Governor Ron DeSantis
- Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy
- Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo
- Idaho Governor Brad Little
- Maryland Governor Larry Hogan
- New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy (5/20/2020)
- Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker (5/21/2020)

- **VA leadership has participated in the following Congressional Engagements**

- Secretary Wilkie hosted weekly phone calls with Chairman Jerry Moran and Ranking Member Jon Tester of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.
- Secretary Wilkie hosted weekly phone calls with Chairman Mark Takano and Ranking Member Phil Roe of the House Veterans Affairs Committee.
- VA facilitated a briefing to Senate and House Authorizing committee staffers on VA's Emergency Management Disaster Plan for COVID-19.
- Sent daily detailed updates to both House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees.

- Sent 541 letters to Members of Congress and Committees clarifying the process for requests from states and localities for VA to activate it's 4<sup>th</sup> MISSION.
- VHA Executive in Charge, and the Assistant Secretary from Management briefed HVAC Chairman Takano on the \$19.6 Billion received in the supplemental funding bill (3/30/2020).
- Secretary Wilkie briefed Sen. Boozman on Appropriations related issues. (4/2/2020)
- The VA Chief Acquisition Officer briefed House Veterans Affairs Minority Staff on procurement, supply chain, etc. (4/6/2020)
- VA Chief Financial Officers briefed the House and Senate Appropriations staffers (4 Corners) on VHA's Supplemental Funding distribution plan for the Families First and CARES Acts. (4/7/2020)
- Human Resources and Administration office briefed House Veterans Affairs and Senate Veteran's Affairs Committee staff on workforce challenges during COVID-19. The briefing covered 1) what VA is doing to recruit/hire nurses and staff; 2) how VA is keeping staff safe; 3) how VA is incorporating feedback from union leaders and safety officers during this COVID-19 response. (4/8/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie conducted update calls on VA's response to COVID with House Appropriations MilConVA Subcommittee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman-Shultz, House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jerry Moran. (4/9/2020)
- The Executive in Charge, VHA had a phone briefing with HVAC Chairman Mark Takano on VA response to COVID-19. (4/13/2020)
- Acting Deputy Secretary Powers held separate conference calls with Sen Moran (SVAC Chair), Sen Bozeman (SAC-VA), CM Takano (HVAC Chair), and CM Roe (HVAC Ranking); discussed COVID response. (4/15/2020)
- The Chief Information Officer Jim Gferer held a call with House and Senate MilConVA Subcommittee staff. (4/16/2020)
- ADEPSEC Powers had a call with Senator Brian Schatz (Hawaii), Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee MilConVA. (4/20/2020)
- Veteran's Health Administration CFO and VA budget staff briefed House and Senate Appropriations staffers on VHA's CARES Act Supplemental Funding supporting the VA Homelessness Program. (4/22/2020)
- Veterans Health Administration and Office of Information and Technology subject matter experts briefed House and Senate Appropriations staff on the use and expansion of Telehealth capabilities in response to COVID-19. (4/25/2020)
- The VHA Chief Financial Officer briefed House and Senate Appropriations staff on the \$150 million for State Home Construction Grants and \$606 million for Medical Facilities including Non-Recurring Maintenance, as well as, the provision that allows VHA to provide PPE to State Homes in response to COVID-19. (4/27/2020)
- VHA subject matter experts held a call with the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Staff to brief them on VA's support for State Veteran Homes. (4/29/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie held a phone call with West Virginia Senators Manchin and Shelly Capito Moore. (4/30/2020)
- Leaderships from the Office of Logistics and Constructions and VHA Procurement Office briefed House Veterans Affairs minority staff on supply chain efforts. (5/1/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie had a phone call with HAC MilConVA Subcommittee Chair Debbie Wasserman Schulz. to update on COVID and formally decline the Subcommittee's invite for a May hearing. (5/6/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie had a phone call with Sen. Jack Reed on PPE request for state of Rhode Island. (5/8/2020)



- Acting Deputy Secretary Powers had a call with Sen. Hassan to discuss the partnership with New Hampshire regarding a PPE shipment. (5/8/2020)
- The Executive in Charge, VHA briefed House Veterans Affairs, Senate Veterans Affairs and Appropriation Committee staff members on COVID-19 response.
- Executive in Charge, VHA held a call with members of the House Appropriations Committee.
- VBA Executives briefed staff from SVAC (Majority and Minority) and HVAC (Majority and Minority) on COVID-19 efforts as well as updates on Compensation and Pension contract exams, disability benefits questionnaires, claims processing and appeals. (5/8/2020)
- Assistant Secretary of OIT, Jim Gfrerer briefed Representatives Lee and Levin on technological implications of COVID-19 on the GI Bill. (5/8/2020)
- Leadership from Office of Logistics and Construction leadership briefed the Minority Staff for SVAC on supply chain issues related to VA's 4<sup>th</sup> Mission. (5/8/2020)
- SECVA hosted weekly phone call with SVAC Chairman Jerry Moran and Ranking Member Jon Tester (5/13/2020)
- A DEPSEC had a call with Ambassador John Hennessey-Niland, Republic of Palau (5/15/2020)
- Veterans Benefit Administration executives provided a briefing to Four Corners regarding updates on VBA's three-phased approach for returning to pre-COVID operations especially for VA regional offices and pension management centers, and the need for any additional funding around overtime and IT. (5/15/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie hosted a phone call with Alaska Senator Dan Sullivan
- Sec. Wilkie hosted his weekly update call with SVAC Chairman Jerry Moran and Ranking Member Jon Tester
- Veterans Benefit Administration executives provided a briefing to House Veterans Affairs and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Staff regarding updates on VBA's three-phased approach for returning to pre-COVID operations, the need for any additional funding around overtime and IT and pending examinations. (5/22/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie hosted a phone call with HAC MilCon Chair Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (5/27/2020)
- SECVA and VA leaders testified this morning in front of the HAC MilCon VA Subcommittee on VA's response to COVID-19 (5/28/2020)

### **Other Key Engagements with VA Stakeholders**

- Secretary Wilkie joined President Trump on a stakeholder call with leaders of Veterans Service organizations to update them on the government wide response to COVID-19. (3/21/20)
- Under Secretary for Benefits and the Executive in Charge for VHA briefed Rep. Takano, Rep. Roe, Sen. Tester and Sen. Moran on COVID-19 Responses for Health and Benefits. (4/2/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie briefed the FEMA Task Force. Informed them that VA was prepared to open 1500 beds across our system to help relieve the pressure on states and localities. Each Veterans Affairs network has put in place contingency plans to expand the number of beds available, first for veterans and then our fellow citizens. (4/3/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie participated in a conference call on mental health services with the President, First Lady, the Vice President, Second Lady and HHS Sec. Alex Azar. (4/9/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie joined White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Doug Hoelscher for a briefing on VA and White House response to COVID-19. Over 200 State and Local Leaders joined the call. (4/14/2020)
- The Secretary hosted weekly phone calls with VSO leaders to provide them with an update on VA's response to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

- Secretary Wilkie and his leadership team hosted a call with State and Local Government Stakeholders to provide them an update on VA's response to COVID-19.
- Secretary visited the Washington DC hospital to thank staff and visit veterans. (4/21/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie hosted a teleconference with the Baltimore Veteran Treatment Court staff to include their Public Defender, District Attorney, veteran mentors and student attorneys. (4/22/2020)
- The Under Secretary for Benefits hosted multiple tele-townhalls for Veterans which, focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates.
- Under Secretary of Memorial Affairs Randy Reeves hosted a phone call with State Leaders to discuss issues regarding our National Cemeteries during COVID-19. (4/21/2020)
- VA Office of Intergovernmental Affairs reached out to 250 State Leaders to discuss topics such as support for states, updates or support on State Veterans homes, etc. (4/23/2020)
- VA Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and SMEs from VA's office of mental health held a briefing call with State and Local leaders including State Veterans Affairs Directors, County Veterans Service Officers, etc. on VA's efforts to serve Veterans with mental health issues during COVID-19. (4/28/2020)
- Plane load of Chinese-made PPE arrived in New Hampshire. ADEPSEC Powers traveled to NH to meet the plane with Governor Sununu and provided remarks at the event. VA worked an agreement with the State of New Hampshire via Governor Chris Sununu to procure a large amount of the supplies. (4/30/2020)
- SECVA hosted a weekly VSO update call to update our VSO stakeholders on our response to COVID-19 (5/13/2020)
- Under Secretary for Benefits Paul Lawrence hosted a Tele-Townhall for Veterans in Iowa on Tuesday, May 12, focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates, reaching 34,247 participants. (5/13/2020)
- Acting Deputy Secretary Pamela Powers visited the Richmond VA Medical Center in Virginia to meet with hospital leadership and thank them for their work during the response to COVID-19 (5/19/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie hosted his weekly update call with Veteran Service Organizations to brief them on VA's ongoing efforts regarding COVID-19 (5/20/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie joined the President for the Rolling to Remember Event at the White House (5/22/2020)
- Under Secretary for Benefits hosted a Tele-Townhall for Veterans in Virginia focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates, reaching 59,164 participants. (5/22/2020)
- Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Randy Reeves appeared on Fox News to discuss protocol at VA Cemeteries during Memorial Day  
<https://www.foxnews.com/media/va-undersecretary-addresses-flag-controversy-for-2020-memorial-day>
- Sec. Wilkie (Quantico National Cemetery), DEPSEC Powers (Culpepper VA National Cemetery) and USMA (Calverton National Cemetery) gave keynote remarks at small ceremonies for Memorial Day (5/25/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie hosted his weekly tele-conference with Veterans Service Organizations to update them on VA's COVID-19 response and other matters (5/27/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie and USB Paul Lawrence hosted a town hall for North Carolina Veterans (5/27/2020)

#### **Miscellaneous Communications from VA**

- VAntage blog published January 31st and continually updated since:  
<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/70999/cdc-coronavirus-information-and-resources/>
- VetResources emails, providing Coronavirus information and prevention guidance, were sent to 10.8 million subscribers. (2/5 and 2/26)
- Implemented VEText outreach to 8,858,481 Veterans to receive COVID-19 information and updates via text. (3/17/2020)
- Partnered with Facebook and the American Red Cross Military Veteran Caregiver Network to support Veterans and their families/caregivers in their homes through use of 7,488 free Facebook Portal devices.
- Conducted a “Lunch and Learn” a virtual online meeting to provide Veteran Service Organizations and community partners access to VA resources including COVID-19 response resources.
- Published VETResources to a total of 10.7M Veterans via email. (3/25/20).
- Secretary Wilkie sent a message to all VA employees expressing appreciation for their support during the COVID-19 pandemic, assuring them that their health and safety and that of VA’s patients is critical, and offering resources to promote employee wellness. (3/17/2020)
- Deployed VEText based messages to Veterans that have a mobile phone number registered with VA (3/30/2020);
  - The texts reach approximately 7.1 million Veterans.
  - The message: “Dept of Veterans Affairs COVID-19 update: Stay home, stay safe, stay connected. VA has online tools for appointments, prescriptions, and more.  
<https://go.usa.gov/xdJkp>
- Developed a COVID-19 quick start guide (QSG) to be posted as part of the VA welcome kit and broadly distributed to Veterans. This distribution includes:
  - All MOU partners (corporate partners), Veteran Service Organizations (VSO), posted on social media pages (Twitter, Facebook, etc.), VA Program Offices for sharing across their partner networks, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA). (3/30/2020)
- Published public blog with guidance for Veterans/Caregivers seeking access to DoD facilities.
- Conducted a “Lunch and Learn” virtual online meeting to provide Veteran Service Organizations and community partners information on VA Mental Health resources and highlight the Cohen Veterans Network (CVN) mental health initiatives <http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/veocvebllcohen/>
- The COVID Quick Start Guide (QSG) was posted at <https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit/> (4/7/2020)
- Initiated an advertising campaign for VHA recruiting. (4/7/2020)
- #LiveWholeHealth-Self Care Resources campaign for Veterans during Coronavirus crisis launched.
- PREVENTS reached out to Vets during the COVID crisis, releasing informational videos and concrete steps that Veterans and their families can take to care for their emotional well-being under the tag #MoreThanEverBefore and with the help of lead PREVENTS Ambassador Second Lady Karen Pence. (4/8/2020)
- <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/73363/live-whole-health-self-care-episode-1/>
- Sent a Mental-health focused VEText message to be distributed to 9 million Veterans (4/10/2020)
- Published *Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Financial Relief Actions and Time Limit Extensions* to VBA’s Fact Sheets site. (4/10/2020)
- Published *VBA COVID-19 FAQs* to help address routine and non-urgent questions. (4/10/2020)
- Delivered VETResources digital newsletter to 10.7 Million Veterans. (4/16/2020)
- VA launched a new website on VA’s external blog <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/roll-of-honor/> called the “Roll of Honor”. This new webpage page came about as a result of not being able to provide committal services due to the COVID-19 crisis. The site provides an opportunity to

remember those Veterans interred during this crisis and reflects interments in our cemeteries. Each day, NCA will add the names; branch of service and location of burial for each Veteran interred in a national cemetery on the previous day. (4/16/2020)

- VA's My HealtheVet team is hosting a webinar for Veterans about how to access VA telehealth services, in coordination with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. (4/17/2020)
- VA sent a text message via VETtext to 8.2M Veterans. Content is focused on financial hardship, and specifically action certain Veterans must take to claim an additional \$500 per dependent in stimulus funds. (5/1/2020)
- VBA published the Transition Talk series to VBA's Transition and Economic Development website. Several video segments were posted that addressed our response to COVID-19 and VBA Program updates. (5/12/2020)
- Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits, Margarita Devlin, participated in a virtual event sponsored by the Association of Defense Communities and Blue Star Families.
- VA published the following video that discussed TAP procedures during COVID-19, including information on how to access web-based VA Benefits and Services courses and Military Life Cycle: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3agzM86sBk>
- Secretary Wilkie visited the Baltimore, Maryland VA Medical Center to thank employees for their life saving and important work during the Pandemic. (5/18/2020)
- Under Secretary for Benefits, Paul Lawrence hosted a Tele-Townhall for Veterans in Oklahoma on focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates, reaching 27,705 participants. (5/18/2020)
- PDUSB Margarita Devlin was the keynote speaker for Day 1 of VA Healthcare Online Summit. (5/19/2020)
- USB Paul Lawrence hosted a Tele-Townhall for Veterans in Kentucky focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates, reaching 21,434 participants. (5/19/2020)
- VA shared our Transition Talk/Transition Assistance Program video segment through various social media channels and communication platforms. This segment of Military to Civilian Transition Talk discussed the cancellation of TAP events due to COVID-19 and the availability of online courses and where to access them. All Transition Talk episodes are located at <https://benefits.va.gov/transition/coronavirus.asp>
- Published Circular 26-20-19, *Additional Lender Guidance Concerning COVID-19*, to provide supplemental information regarding current VA policies and to provide further guidance to assist in the processing of VA-guaranteed loans during the National Emergency. The circular is located at [https://www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/documents/circulars/26\\_20\\_19.pdf](https://www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/documents/circulars/26_20_19.pdf).
- Board of Veterans Appeals Chairman Cheryl Mason participated in an interview with Government Matters to discuss BVA's response to COVID-19 (5/22/2020)
- VBA posted information to its social media platforms concerning VA benefits debts. If a Veteran or beneficiary are financially unable to pay their debt(s) due to the COVID-19 crisis, they can call or submit their request online at <https://iris.custhelp.va.gov/app/ask/>.
  - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/VAVetBenefits/status/1265659176203833345?s=20>
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransBenefits/posts/10158288334263416:0>
- Total VA email messages sent from January 24, 2020 with reference to COVID-19 and/or Coronavirus in either the subject line or body content up to today: 288,566,268. VA email percentage directly related to COVID-19 Outreach is 288,566,268/519,433,938 or 54.2%.
- A VETtext message describing Veterans Health Administration's re-opening plans was sent today to a total of 8.1M Veterans.



## Guidance Documents and Human Capital

- Provided HR Emergency Preparedness Guide to employees and managers to answer questions on a wide range of human capital topics (e.g., travel, leave, telework, employee relations, labor relations, compensation, staffing, reasonable accommodation); continue to update based on new guidance.
- Released system-wide policy released directing curtailment of routine appointments and elective surgeries at all VA facilities (3/17/20)
- Released guidance for Geriatrics & Extended Care Home & Community Based Services Programs to protect Veterans and staff including strict limitations on visitors in geriatric facilities, increasing the use of virtual modalities for clinical care, and screening all essential visitors or residents of a Veterans home prior to initiating contact.
- Released Chaplain guidance related to COVID-19 transmitted to the field (3/17/20) that continues to provide spiritual support to Veterans while using appropriate PPE or and utilizing virtual modalities for worship services. Any large-scale chaplain events have been cancelled. (3/17/20)
- Implementation of an Episodic Special Patient Icon in Bed Management Solution sent to the field
  - VA recently launched an Episodic Patient Icon to identify inpatient Veterans who are presumptive or confirmed positive cases during epidemics. These icons can also be used to identify negative pressure rooms which allows for real-time bed capacity across the enterprise.
- Issuing proposed COVID-19 Interim Suitability & Fingerprint Guidance to comply with social distancing recommendations; guidance includes temporarily suspension of an initial fingerprint check (SAC) prior to new employees and contractor's entry-on-duty (EOD); VA continuing other investigatory measures such as initiation of e-Quip.
- Finalized a response to various union demands to bargain implementation of measures and precautions being put in place by the Department to protect people and property during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The general response denies immediate negotiations while advising any impact and implementation bargaining will occur post-implementation when the pandemic ceases. The Department is willing to meet all its legal obligations, including negotiating with unions representing VA employees, but must also focus on providing care to our Veterans while protecting the safety and security of our facilities and the health of all in them.
- Issued guidance memorandum authorizing waiver of the biweekly pay limitation on premium pay for workers performing duties in response to COVID-19, permitting overtime and premium pay for eligible workers up to the annual limitation.
- OPM signed dual-compensation waiver to allow hiring of reemployed annuitants (i.e. retired employees) during COVID-19 by streamlining current delegations of authority for waiver of salary offset
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP): Prepared to increase scope of the EAP contract with FOH for COVID-19 counselling if needed.
- VA announced the policy change that allows for a dual compensation waiver for retired annuitants (retired VA employees) to be hired back to VA to meet the increased need of healthcare workers during COVID-19
- VA working with OPM to expedite blanket requests from VA to exceed the limits on recruitment, relocation, and retention incentives for Title 5 employees to help provide necessary staff
- Coordinated with DOD to identify approximately 8581 employees who are reserve/guard members and 669 are currently activated – 122 nurses and 24 doctors included in this number.

- Internal bulletin being drafted to implement new OPM guidance on flexible on-boarding this coming pay period and as needed during COVID to minimize physical proximity (such as the oath of office, the form I-9, fingerprinting, orientation, physical examinations, drug testing).
- Submitted to OPM: (1) request for dual comp waiver to cover 2210 (IT Specialists) series occupations, and (2) direct hire authority for VBA positions-- Veteran Service Representative, Rating Veterans Service Representative, and Legal Administrative Specialist.
- Guidance sent to HR offices of a temporary postponement of pre-employment applicant drug testing for testing designated positions (TDP) for up to 180 days.
- Authority to Approve Weather & Safety Leave for Employees
- Guidance for Elective Gastroenterology and Hepatology Procedures – COVID-19
- Guidance for VHA Eye Care Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- OCHCO Bulletin – Temporary Authorization to Delay Pre-Placement and Recurring Physical Exams
- Guidance for VHA Emergency Child Care Center Operations
- Dual Compensation Waiver Guidance for VHA
- Guidance on Safeguards for Military Environmental Registry Exams to Protect Veterans
- Guidance on Patient Specimen Shipments - UPS shipping
- Guidance on Preparedness for Mechanical Ventilation of COVID-19 patients during Pandemic
- Examining with OPM on a waiver or use of existing interchange agreements to detail excepted to competitive positions
- Collaborating with DOL and DHS/USCIS on a waiver of labor market review for non-citizens.
- Collaborating with the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association to let that community participate in helping VA fill its openings.
- VA send new (coordinated) guidance to the field on MISSION Act considerations (3/27/20).
- VA released the VHA COVID-19 Response Plan which provides guidance to the field. The operations plan includes strategies to address many COVID-19 cases to include alternative sites of care for Veterans with COVID-19. (3/27/20)
- VA Veterans Health Administration sent the following guidance to the field (3/27/2020)
  - Delegation of Authority – Group Recruitment and Retention Incentives for Title 38 Employees
  - Recruitment, Hiring and Organizational Changes During COVID-19
  - COVID-19 VHACO Clinician Request
  - Postponement of Long-Term Care Surveys
  - Establishment of New Hire Processing Timeline
  - Office of Nursing Services Recruitment – Retired Annuitants and Travel Nurse Corps
- Recommending OPM delay Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) by 3 months. VA is considering delay of VA's annual All Employee Survey (AES) to September.
- OPM approved direct hire authority for the following VBA positions: Veterans Service Representative; Rating Veterans Service Representative; Legal Administrative Specialist.
- Modifying Bulletin on waiving physical examinations during COVID-19 to address stress on Employee Occupational Health (EOH) offices who are focused on COVID-19 screening.
- Working modifications to HRSmart to support mass hiring to support deployable medical personnel. (3/29/2020)
- Submitting request to OPM for broad authority to approve Special Contribution Awards (SCA) above the \$10K agency limit; drafting changes to current policy (VAH 5017) to delegate from SECVA to EIC authority to approve SCAs up to \$10K.
- Notified HR offices on COVID-19 Excepted Service Hiring Authority for Schedule A approved by OPM. this allows us to quickly hire any Title 5 positions that are in direct response COVID-19. VA may use



this to fill positions on a temporary basis for up to one year as needed in response to, or as a result of COVID-19. (3/30/2020)

- OPM sending VA job opportunities to over 1M retirees.
- VA All Employee Survey postponed until September 2020.
- Notified Human Resources (HR) offices of the Federal employee leave provisions under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the requirement to post the Families First Coronavirus Response Act Notice at VA facilities.
- In accordance with OMB and VA COVID-19 guidance, National Diversity Internship Program (NDIP) FY 20 summer session has been cancelled.
- VHA New Guidance to the field (3/31/2020):
  - Leveraging Capacity to Support Surges in Demand for COVID-19
  - Credentialing and Privileging COVID-19 (Reduced credentialing process for providers in order to expedite onboarding of critical medical staff)
  - Resilience Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (RRTP) Hardening Guidance (Details guidance on efforts to protect staff and patients in our Domiciliary Units)
  - Supplemental Information - Radiology and Nuclear Scheduling and Orders Management During the COVID-19 Pandemic
  - Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance for Urgent and Emergent Surgical Procedures
  - Guidance on Access Standards in response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updated (coordinated with OMB)
- VA OGC advised that the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has the authority during the COVID-19 global pandemic emergency to procure lodging for employees working at their local worksite (e.g., if staff have a need to stay away from their homes/family members and continue to work (e.g. Emergency Department physicians), or a need to stay close by for faster response time, if VHA documents in writing why it has concluded that this event at all or some facilities involves imminent danger to human life and why paying for employee meals and lodging is necessary to combat that imminent danger.
- Assistant Secretary HRA/OSP and Assistant Secretary OIT co-signed a memorandum dated March 31 outlining temporary procedures for personnel security vetting and appointment of new employees and alternative PIV credentials for eligible users during Coronavirus 2019 National Emergency; this guidance implements direction issued to executive departments and agencies from the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Personnel Management.
- Provided guidance on March 26 to field claims processors and the public on good cause for extending claims filing deadlines based on COVID-19. (4/1/2020)
- VHA Guidance Issued to the Field: (4/1/2020)
  - COVID-19 Definitions of Bed Categories
  - Suspension of Registered Nurse Transition to Practice Residency Program
  - COVID - Clinical Resource Hub Guidance
  - Guidance for the Hiring Compensation and Utilization of Alternate Nurse and Unlicensed Assistive Personnel
  - COVID-19 - Process for Cancellation of Non-urgent Operating Room Procedures.
  - Specifically, under existing VA regulations, if the time limits within which claimants or beneficiaries are required to act in order to perfect a claim, file an appeal, or challenge an adverse VA decision expired, the time may be extended for “good cause” shown.
  - Accordingly, claimants impacted by COVID-19 may request an extension for filing based on good cause. VBA regional office claims processors will grant the extension request, provided the time limit in question expired on or after March 13, 2020.

- Notified HR offices of the Federal employee leave provisions under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the requirement to post the Families First Coronavirus Response Act notice at VA facilities. This provides up to two weeks (up to 80 hours) of emergency paid sick leave to all federal civil service employees if they are unable to work (or telework) under specified circumstances related to COVID-19 – unless they are in an exempted category.
- Direct Hire Authority allowed by OPM for certain additional positions in NCA and VHA.
- OPM has authorized VA Direct Hire Authority for one year for the following positions at all grade levels nationwide for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency: Industrial Hygienist, GS-0690 Plumber, WG-4206 Maintenance Worker, WG-4749 Supervisory Engineer, GS-0801 Specialty Engineer, GS-0800 Laborer, WG-3502 Cook, WG-7404 Cemetery Caretaker, WG-4754. OPM has also authorized DHA for the following occupation and at this specific grade level: Human Resources Specialist, GS-0201-12.
- **VHA Guidance to the field:**
  - Changes to In-Person Identity Verification for the My HealtheVet Website
  - COVID-19 Bed Expansion Planning Signed
  - Move! Weight Management Program Guidance for COVID-19 Pandemic Response
  - EIC Memorandum Authorization to pay for Lodging and Meals
  - Contracted Outpatient Sites of Care COVID-19 Virtual Care Information and Updates
- Developing policy on the ability of VA law enforcement personnel, with proper notice, to inspect the personal effects of employees exiting VA healthcare facilities in order to prevent the theft of personal protective equipment needed to protect health care workers during the on-going public health emergency. This is becoming an issue during the Pandemic. (4/4/2020)
- VA signed a memorandum regarding the Child Care Subsidy Program that has temporarily expanded the total family income ceiling from \$89,999 to the maximum limit of \$144,000 for support during the COVID-19 crisis; allows eligible employees to seek reimbursement on some child-care costs. (4/6/2020)
- Veterans Health Administration guidance sent to field: (4/6/2020)
  - Grade and Pay Determinations for Nurses/Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) During COVID-19
  - Homeless Program Office (HPO) Guidance on Face to Face Visits
  - On-Hand Inventory Reporting Requirements for Critical Care and Coronavirus Drugs
  - Update: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Facemask and N95 Respirator Use
  - Tip Sheet for Caregivers During COVID-19
  - VHA COVID 19 Priorities During Transition to VA's New EHRM
  - COVID-19 Employee Deployment - Special Contribution Award Guidance
- VA Public Health, Coronavirus website to provide Veterans & Staff guidance and information now active. Website visited 191,348 times with 172,253 unique visits (4/6/2020)
- Published policy revision updates to VA Handbook 5005 to remove the requirement for Professional Standards Boards for the following occupations listed in 38 U.S.C. § 7401 (3), which will reduce the time to hire for these positions by streamlining the process: physical therapy assistant; occupational therapy assistant; marriage family therapist; therapeutic radiologic technologist; kinesiotherapist; orthotist and prosthetist; medical records administration; blind rehabilitation specialist; blind rehabilitation outpatient specialist; licensed professional mental health counselor, prosthetic representative; nuclear medicine technologist; occupational therapist; physical therapist; dietitian and nutritionist; medical records technician; and therapeutic medical physicist. (4/7/2020)

- VA has decided to defer the Leadership VA (LVA) FY20 Class until FY21 and increase the size from 80 to 100 to make up for some of the leadership development throughput lost from postponing the current cohort. (4/7/2020)
- Veterans Health Administration Guidance to the Field: (4/7/2020)

#### COVID-19 VHA Guidance for Tuberculosis Testing of New Employees

- Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Compliance Inspection During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Accreditation Contract Delayed
- 2020 US Census Participation for Veterans in VA Residential Settings
- Continuity in Mental Health Services and Suicide Prevention Activities During COVID-19
- COVID-19 Temporary/Expedited Appointment Credentialing Process
- Release of Updated Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and New FY 2021 Basic and Prevailing State Home Per Diem Rates for State Veteran Homes
- Focused Professional Practice Evaluation and Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation Process during Presidential Declared State of Emergency – COVID-19
- Guidance on Anticoagulation Use and Monitoring for Veterans Health Administration Anticoagulation Programs During VHA's COVID-19 Emergency Response
- Contact Center Script and Screening (COVID-19) Updated
- VA received approval from OPM to waive the salary off-set for 2210 (Grades 07-15) and 340 series (Grades 12-14) positions. (4/11/2020)
- VA has issued guidance that starting immediately all CLC Staff and Veterans will be tested for COVID-19. CLCs are VA's nursing homes and care for particularly vulnerable Veterans. (4/11/2020)
- OPM approved VA's request for direct hire authority for the following additional 11 positions at all grade levels on a nationwide basis to support COVID-19. The approval begins today and is for one year: personnel security specialist; program support assistant; cemetery representative; health systems specialist; construction control representative; electronics industrial control mechanic; painter; equipment servicer; air conditioning equipment operator; equipment operator; laundry worker. (4/13/2020)
- Notified HR offices of flexibilities to defer random drug testing in certain conditions due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Establishes limited conditions in which a facility director may approve a deferral of a random drug test for an employee occupying a testing designated position. (4/13/2020)
- Revised Guidance on new hire applicant drug testing: April 17 revised bulletin issued updating prior guidance regarding how long an applicant drug test may be postponed; prior bulletin issued on March 25, 2020 advised that due to COVID-19, applicant testing could be postponed for up to 180 days after the applicant's entrance on duty in order for VA to meet emergency hiring needs. The revised bulletin includes the following statement: "It is the responsibility of the HR office to schedule the drug test as soon as practicable, but no later than 90 calendar days from the date of appointment." (4/19/2020)
- VA received approval from OPM on its request to waive the 25 percent limit on recruitment, relocation, and individual retention incentives, and the 10 percent limit on group retention incentives for certain occupations that are responding to workload surges due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). (4/20/2020)
- Provided notices to the field to remind all employees of the services that the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offers to them and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic (guidance was pre-cleared through OMB/OPM). (4/22/2020)

- Provided guidance of required steps for expediting onboarding for new VA hires. Steps have been streamlined to meet urgent staffing needs created by COVID-19 (guidance was pre-cleared through OMB/OPM). (4/22/2020)
- The Secretary signed a Delegation of Authority (April 23) that allows VA Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Other Key Officials at equivalent level of authority, the authority to exclude an employee, who is a health care provider or emergency responder, from application of the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act, Division E and the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act Division C of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). Accompanying guidance (that was vetted by OMB) was issued to the field as well via a Chief Human Capital Officer Bulletin. (4/23/2020)
- VA launched a COVID-19 chatbot on VA.gov this week. The chatbot helps answer veterans' questions about COVID-19 and direct them to available VA resources (4/23/2020)
- SECVA signed a delegation of authority VA Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Other Key Officials, the authority to waive certain limitations on pay for work done in support of the response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The following pay limits are listed in the guidance as covered: basic pay, nurse executive and pharmacist executive special pay, aggregate pay, annual pay, premium pay, and incentives and awards. (4/27/2020)
- On May 12, 2020, VA issued a bulletin (cleared through OMB) that notified HR offices of a temporary authorization to extend the grace period to obtain licenses for currently unlicensed or uncertified GS-9/11 Social Workers (SW) and GS-9 Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT). Due to COVID-19, many state licensing boards, and professional testing centers, have limited operational capacity or have closed entirely. This exception will remain 90 days after the COVID-19 national emergency has been lifted or 90 days after a testing center or resumption of normal operations, whichever is first. (5/13/2020)
- OPM approved additional direct hire authority for the following position at all grade levels on a nationwide basis to support COVID-19: Personnel Security Assistant (GS-0086). The authority is effective immediately and is for one year. (5/20/2020)
- VA Notified HR offices of updated information on various leave options that may be utilized by employees during COVID-19. The bulletin clarifies the conditions in which telework, weather and safety leave, emergency paid sick leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA), paid leave under the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act (EFMLEA), and leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA leave) may be authorized. (5/20/2020)
- VA sent version 6 of COVID-19 FAQs adding several new HR topics. The table of changes also provides a quick reference to other updates made throughout the document on the following topics including: Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), Pre-Placement Examinations, Onboarding, PIV and Background Investigations, Employee Relations, Telework and Reasonable Accommodation, Return to Work. (5/20/2020)

### **COVID Response (VHA)**

- Within a day of the first confirmed US case, VA began planning for COVID-19 by establishing screening and triage, isolation and quarantine, and infection control strategy and plans.
- Activated Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) to Level 1 on January 20, 2020 and it remains activated.
- Daily crisis action team meetings at 3pm to discuss updates and remain in sync internally and with other federal guidance. (3/9/2020)



- Screening points established at every major VHA Healthcare Facility (170 hospitals that serve nearly 9 million veterans across the country. (3/10/20)
- Limited admissions to Spinal Cord Injury Units - 24 major centers; 24,000 Veterans. (3/10/20)
- Restricted admission to VA Community Living Centers (CLC) (134 nationwide nursing homes supporting 41,000 Veterans. (3/10/20)
- Submitted Task Order to HHS to receive an additional 250K masks in Martinsburg; 1.5M masks at the SDC in Hines, IL
- VA is experiencing a reduction in surgical case load due to delaying non-emergent care; down from 1,900 per day to 1,300 per day. Additionally, there has been a 5% drop in ER visits; increased bed capacity by 1/3 across the VA. (3/16/20)
- VA will receive 20,000 testing swabs. (3/23/20)
- Packaged 50,000 masks today for shipment to Denver and Brooklyn. (3/23/2020)
- Future deployment of the Mobile Vet Center to New Orleans, LA will start week of 23 Mar 2020. VA reviewing locations for additional deployments. VA to set up Vet Center Community Access Point to provide direct counseling to Veterans receiving treatment through the HHS location.
- Working to purchase facepiece elastomeric respirators based on CDC Guidance for managing COVID-19 patients; It is recommended that elastomeric respirators be used in order to conserve Surgical 95 and N95 filtering facepieces for high risk procedures that require a sterile field. (3/24/2020)
- Converting all ICU beds to negative airflow beds with a goal of reengineering by 3/30/20
- VA experiencing a high reduction (20%) in urgent care utilization showing Veterans are heeding advice to stay home. (3/24/2020)
- 20k hand sanitizer bottles have been received and will be deployed to the facilities. (3/24/2020)
- Davita and Fresenius Dialysis companies establishing joint cohorting sites for individual markets where COVID 19 dialysis patients can be treated in isolation.
- VA is no longer considering issuing a temporary waiver of the >90% bed hold requirement and the 75% Veteran bed requirement for State Veterans Homes to help ensure they remain solvent during this crisis. After further review, OGC advised that VA has no authority to waive the regulatory requirement. In addition, we were asked to review draft legislative language that would waive the above requirement. The State Homes have a hotline to Congress so we assume this is something they asked for and we will support.
- VA met with OIRA and OMB on MISSION Act considerations. VA is not pausing the MISSION Act. The department is ensuring the best medical interests of Veterans are met by adhering to the law in a manner that takes into account whether referrals for community care are clinically appropriate during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Manila, Philippines Embassy will close in the next two weeks, in which case our VA clinic will close. Eight employees will be returned to the US (1 VHA and 7 VBA) and this will impact 6,000 veterans who receive care from that clinic.
- Activating enhanced Tele-ICU hub
- To support volunteerism, VHA is authorizing Special Contribution Awards up to the limit and asking OPM for authority to go above \$10,000 but under \$25,000 where needed and also making an exception to policy (VA Directive 5007) to allow per regulation recruitment, relocation and retention bonuses for any appointment at least 6 months in duration.
- Received shipment of N-95 masks, swabs and test kits for distribution (3/27/2020)
- Currently supporting approximately 2,500 concurrent telehealth appointments, with a goal of 10,000 concurrent appointments. (3/27/2020)
- With support from our Center for Strategic Partnerships, Office of Research and Development is establishing agreements with two commercial Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) that has allowed

four of our medical centers to join in ongoing COVID-19 clinical trials and positions us to be ready for any future trials using these IRBs. VA opened trials in Palo Alto, Atlanta, New Orleans and Denver, where VA is seeing a surge of COVID patients.

- Partnering with Amazon, to purchase 500 tablets to enable access for Veterans, families and caregivers via VHA Telehealth Service to help ensure medical access and reduce possible exposure estimated launch. (3/30/2020)
- Assisting Homeless Program on development of Assessment and Recovery Center.
- Since the pandemic first started impacting the U.S (as of 3/5), approximately 1,626 families have postponed scheduled services citing COVID-19 concerns.
- VA working an Agreement with Reliance for the use of Advarra as the commercial IRB of record for a COVID-19 study using Gilead's Remdesvir at the Palo Alto VA Medical Center.
- VA has increased telehealth capacity by 15% to 11,000 max concurrent user call capacity.
- Medical Centers are experiencing serious PPE shortage. Several sites doing 3D printing, but it is not enough. Soon, PPE will be rationed; one surgical mask issued per week, one N95 per day. VISN 6 began mask sterilization with Berrett – 2400 mask in a 24-hour period. (4/4/2020)
- 2 Medical Centers have a greater than 70% occupancy of Med/Surg beds with COVID patients: Bronx, NY (86% occupancy) and Boston, MA (72%). (4/11/2020)
- On April 10<sup>th</sup> President Trump signed the "VA Tele-Hearing Modernization Act"
- Massachusetts Chelsea Soldiers' Home (Non-VA Facility) (4/12/2020)
  - 7 veteran resident deaths
  - 22 veteran residents who have tested positive
  - 29 staff tested positive
  - VA Boston has accepted patients for care- total count pending
- VHA is in the process of testing all Community Living Center veterans and staff and should have this complete next week. Approximately 7000 veterans live in our CLCs across the nation. (4/16/2020)
- VA is continuing an aggressive expansion of our Tele-ICU capabilities. Yesterday, VA completed the Fayetteville and Salisbury VA Medical Centers. Today we are working on Hampton and San Juan. 51 total sites for network configuration have been completed to date. (5/13/2020)
- VA recorded a peak number of minutes for telehealth visits in a single day at over 2 million; pre-COVID averages were 300,000 minutes per day (5/13/2020)
- VA kicked off its new COVID-19 Joint Data and Analytic Fusion Cell Integrated Project Team (IPT), which will conduct analytics to fill current gaps in COVID-19 understanding. (5/14/2020)
- DoD is supporting VA via MilAir use to transport medical personnel from Reno, Nevada to Newark, New Jersey due to lack of availability of commercial flights (5/17/2020)
- VA expanded network capacity for telehealth by launching Care2 Cloud. Supported 1,652 calls on May 27, the highest peak concurrent calls for Care2 Cloud to date. This is an increase of 71% in one week.
- This month, May 1 through May 25, VA Video Connect has supported record 221,427 unique Veterans (entire month total for February: 29,683; March 102,667; April 218,905)

### **COVID Response (BVA/VBA)**

- All VA Regional Benefit Offices (ROs) are closed to the public. Benefits are still being processed virtually.
- Insurance services extended premium payment grace periods; reinstatement deadlines; and Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI) application deadlines. (3/17/20)



- Board of Veterans Appeals suspended all travel board, video, and central office hearings and is prepared to provide virtual hearings where possible if Veterans and the Representative are willing and have the necessary equipment. (3/17/20)
- VA's Loan Guaranty Service issued program guidance for VA's Real Estate Owned and Portfolio Servicing Contract (RPSC) contractor, placing a moratorium on evictions for VA-owned properties for 60 days due to COVID-19.
- VA's Debt Management Center, through coordination with the Veterans Benefits Administration and Veterans Service Organizations, implemented a 60-day COVID-19 debt relief plan to provide temporary financial relief in accordance with Veterans' request.
- Notified GI Bill Beneficiaries and school officials through email and social media. If schools change modality of training to online classes for the current term, VA will continue to pay benefit payments.
- On Saturday, March 21, 2020, the President signed into law S. 3503, which clarifies how the Department of Veterans Affairs should treat in-person courses of study that convert to distance learning formats due to health-related situations and other emergencies.  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/bill-announcement-89/>
- Effective immediately, the Board of Veterans Appeals will advance on docket (AOD) appeals for Veterans diagnosed with COVID-19. (3/24/2020)
- The Board of Veterans Appeals will accept AMA Notices of Disagreement (NOD) with a typed signature in lieu of a wet signature. (3/24/2020)
- Effective COB March 24, 2020 the National Personnel Records Center will be closing its facility in accordance with local St. Louis municipal guidance. Critical VA personnel will remain behind to continue to process priority records requests.
- A total of 631 Transition Assistance events have been cancelled to date due to installation restrictions. VBA is offering these transition related courses virtually (via eLearning) to all Servicemembers and their families.
- Issued joint guidance with Pension & Fiduciary Service and Appeals Management Office that the COVID-19 pandemic qualifies as "good cause" for granting extension requests. Specifically, if a claimant requests an extension to file forms or documents because the COVID-19 pandemic affected their ability to meet such deadlines, VBA will grant the requested extension, provided the time period expired on or after March 13, 2020 (the date the President issued a national emergency).
- Coordinated with Department of Treasury to suspend the collection of all debt owed to VA until May 31, 2020 for any Veterans seeking debt assistance due to COVID-19. This includes suspending referrals to the Treasury Offset (TOP) and Cross Servicing (CS) processes.
- VA announced today a number of actions to provide Veterans with financial, benefits and claims help amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial relief actions include the following until further notice: (4/3/2020)
- As of April 3, VBA has temporarily suspended all in-person appointments provided by VBA's contract examination vendors, where the Veteran physically reports to the medical provider's office. The contract exam vendors will continue to complete as many examinations as possible using virtual means that do not involve an in-person examination, including tele-exams and ACE. For some disabilities, in-person examinations are required and cannot be completed through an alternate method. (4/6/2020)
  - Suspending all actions on Veteran debts under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department.
  - Suspending collection action or extending repayment terms on preexisting VA debts, as the Veteran prefers.
  - For Veterans who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and need immediate action on their appeals, as opposed to a filing extension, the Board of Veterans' Appeals will Advance their

appeal on Docket (AOD). Click [here](#) to find out how to file for AOD and what documentation is required.

- Veterans Group Life Insurance: Prudential has extended grace periods by 90-days for premium payments and reinstatements, including the time allowed to submit the Attending Physician Statement (APS) required for some medical underwriting applications.
- Boston Regional Benefits Office – Implemented two-week suspension of local mail processing effective April 7, 2020, ending April 21, 2020 during the anticipated peak in COVID-19 infections in the Boston community. Employees will not be authorized to access any of the three Boston, Manchester, White River Junction (BMW) facilities without prior approval as determined by the Director or Assistant Director on a case-by-case basis. (4/7/2020)
- VA published a circular on Loan Guaranty Service to inform the public of changes due to CARES Act which requires a moratorium on foreclosures of Federally backed mortgage loans and a forbearance period for payments on such loans for borrowers who are experiencing a financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the COVID-19 emergency. (4/9/2020)
- Since the CARES act passed VA has worked with Dept. of Treasury on a solution to ensure that Veterans and Survivors who do not file tax returns and rely solely on VA benefits for income still receive stimulus checks via the CARES Act. (4/16/2020)
  - VA is securely providing beneficiary data to the IRS to ensure that no action will be required of Compensation and Pension benefit payment recipients or surviving family members receiving survivors benefits to receive their 'Economic Impact Payment' (EIP) if they do not file an annual tax return.
  - The IRS has also set up a website portal for Economic Impact Payments (EIP) if veterans, survivors or other non-filers wish to submit their information that way.
  - VA will notify press, stakeholders and Congress of these actions over the coming days.
  - This effort is complete
- On April 20, 2020, published a notice in the Federal Register which provides that, for the purpose of determining entitlement to benefits, any correspondence that is received by VA from any claimant during the period March 1, 2020 through 60 calendar days from the date the President ends the national state of emergency, that contains claims, information, or evidence, will be considered received on the date of postmark. (4/20/2020)
- On April 28, 2020, POTUS signed House Bill 6322, or Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, into Public Law 116-140. This new law gives VA additional authorities to continue GI Bill payments for the period beginning on March 1, 2020 and ending on December 31, 2020. VA is currently working to implement the changes: (5/1/2020)
  - continue payments to students participating in the Work Study Program who are furloughed or have to stop working.
  - continue to pay benefits for up to 4 weeks to GI Bill students whose classes are suspended, even if school is still open.
  - restoration of entitlement for GI Bill students who lose credit due to school closure or schools' suspension of training.
  - extend the delimiting date for Montgomery GI Bill and Post-9/11 G Bill students if they are unable to attend training due to COVID-19.
- Based on VA's collaboration with IRS and Treasury, approximately 396K Veterans and survivors will receive nearly \$475 million in economic impact payments this week. VA is still working to enact solutions to ensure that Veterans who live in a U.S. Territory, have a fiduciary or have a foreign address are able to receive an Economic Impact Payment. (5/12/2020)

- VBA will resume in-person medical disability examinations for its compensation and pension programs within the areas covered by the 20 Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Lead Sites identified in its phased reopening plan. VBA examination vendors will implement operation plans using current CDC guidelines for clinical sanitation and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use. In-person examinations will only be scheduled with the consent of the Veteran, and VBA will hold a Veteran's benefit claim for later exam scheduling and a decision if consent is withheld out of concern for exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

## **COVID Response NCA**

- Effective Monday, March 23, 2020, committal services and the rendering of military funeral honors will not be conducted until further notice at VA national cemeteries. Immediate family members (limited to no more than 10 individuals) of the deceased may witness the interment if requested. Currently, approximately 1174 families have postponed scheduled services citing COVID-19 concerns.
- In consultation with DoD, NCA has discontinued disinterment efforts with the Defense POW/MIA Accountability Agency (DoD) at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) effective immediately and until further notice in order to focus NCA resources on essential burial operations.
- Certain VA national cemeteries, located on active military installations, are being impacted by changes in base access (Fort Richardson, AK; Leavenworth, KS). Due to a change in base operating status, the general public is restricted from accessing the cemetery located on the base. NCA has coordinated with base authorities to ensure funeral homes are able to access the cemetery so direct casket/cremation interment operations are still available (without the option to "witness". (3/27/2020)
- Starting Thursday, April 9, 2020, NCA will no longer provide the option for families to witness interments at Calverton National Cemetery to help improve workload efficiency and increase the capacity of interment operations at this cemetery, which is located in the NYC epicenter. This change is being communicated to funeral homes in NY and families with interments scheduled on this date and beyond.
- National Cemetery Administration: Effective, Wednesday, April 15, 2020, witnessing family members will now be asked to view the interment from their cars or the road very near their cars. This change will further promote social distancing at national cemeteries and will be communicated to the funeral home community via Gov Delivery; online and to the Hill via OCLA. Families may continue to visit the gravesite in the days following the interment consistent with CDC guidelines and local travel restrictions. (4/13/2020)

## **Emergency Management/Fourth Mission**

- CAO and VA's Director of Operations and Emergency Management communicated with HHS to ensure VA's Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needs are prioritized. HHS has agreed to release a stop gap quantity of N95 protective masks to VA this week. (March 16, 2020)
- Deployed 16 Nursing Assistants to assist with screening of AMCITs repatriated (all have been demobilized)
- Deployed a Liaison Officer to the HHS Secretary's Operations Center (SOC) to assist with response coordination.

- Conducted analysis of VA Medical facilities contingency data to identify locations for potential COVID-19 dedicated facilities.
- VHA has detailed four personnel to FEMA HQ to support the operations: Dr. John Areno, VISN16 Chief Medical Officer & Pulmonary/Critical Care physician; Mary Mather, IPEC/National Program Manager for LTC; Andrew Centineo, PL&O; Michael Forgy, OEM.
- All Area Emergency Managers are in place at each FEMA region.
- VA is concerned with the national ventilator shortage and is working with FEMA Task Force (TF) to find other sources of supply. VA will receive 25 ventilators this week and an additional 25 next week.
- VA activating DEMPS for New Orleans (160 Clinical Staff) and New York (50 Nurses). We will begin moving people there starting today.
- Collaborating with Peace Corps who has 7,000 volunteers ready to work (due to evacuations); working with them on open position advertising and employment opportunities to support VA's mission during this national emergency and beyond.
- VA identified a potential shortage of 1K nurses in certain hotspots of the nation and is working a combination of solutions to include:
  - Rehire of retired nurses
  - Hire of new employees through special hiring authorities and waivers
  - DEMPS moves from other non-stressed areas in VA
- Acting PDUSH met with NYC Emergency Management Commissioner to discuss need for HHS tasking, sharing of data, and the process for referral of COVID positive and negative patients, preferably Veterans, to be admitted at VA facilities.
- Area Emergency Managers supporting repatriation centers:
  - Travis and Lackland demobilizing today (3/26/2020)
  - Dobbins and Miramar will demobilize tomorrow (3/27/2020)
- Growing the roster for Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System (DEMPS) volunteers for deployment to New York City and New Orleans.
- NY Harbor VA Hospital received four civilian patients from Elmhurst Hospital. One was in respiratory failure and admitted to the ICU. Information about the other three is pending. (3/29/2020)
  - Four to five additional patients are expected overnight from Elmhurst Hospital.
  - The five patients that were to be transferred from Lincoln Hospital have not arrived yet.
- Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System Deployments (Various Specialties) (4/1/2020)
  - (27) Personnel being processed for deployment.
  - (14) Personnel deployed/on the ground at various locations.
  - (2) VISNS requested personnel deployed through DEMPS
- JAVITS NY Medical Station and USNS Comfort Transfer guidance received
- Mobile Vet Center Deployment Update (4/4/2020)
  - New York, NY (Deployment Started)  
Operation Gotham at the Javits Center in New York City began to receive patients on the afternoon of 31 March 2020. Vet Center staff connected with 64 Service members over the course of the deployment. Contact has been made with 2 civilians.
  - Pasadena, CA (Deployment Started)  
Operation started on 1 April 2020 and ended April 3. Minimal contact will seek a better location.
  - Portland, OR (Deployment Started)  
Operation started on 31 March 2020 and staff are located in a shopping center in Portland, OR. Vet Center staff connected with 40 Veterans, Service members and families over the course of the deployment. Contact has been made with 12 civilians



- Altoona, PA (Deployment Started)  
MVC stationed at VAMC to assist with screening. Veteran Outreach Program Specialist on site.
- Dayton, OH (Under Development)  
Request Mobile Vet Center at Dayton Medical Center to assist with COVID screening, will begin Monday April 6
- Developing requirements for Morgue Expansion Capabilities. (4/4/20)
- Working to identify medical consumables/equipment for recently purchased Field ICU Unit. Location for deployment of Unit still under consideration. (4/4/20)
- VA sent a list of critical PPE supplies with requested quantities to RADM Polowczyk, Supply Chain Sub-Task Force Director for consideration and prioritization. (4/5/20)
- Developing language for HHS sub-task on FEMA Mission Assignment to VHA for \$1.5M in pharmaceutical support to Javits shelter in NYC.
- Mobile Vet Center (MVC) Update: (4/7/20)
  - Altoona, PA (Deployment Started). MVC stationed at VAMC to assist with COVID-19 screening. Veteran Outreach Program Specialist on site.
  - Dayton, OH (Deployment Under Development). Request for MVC stationed at VAMC to assist with COVID-19 screening.
  - New York, NY (Deployment Paused). Vet Center staff have connected with 99 service members over the course of the deployment. Contact has been made with 2 civilians
  - Pasadena, CA and Portland, OR deployments ended
- Identified a total of 20 tribal governments that have Emergency Declarations
- VA developing “live” map journal to model next VA “hot spots” for our healthcare system. (4/8/20)
- Continued development of plan on how VA might assist IHS and other tribal nations health systems. (4/10/20)
- Determining the need of resourcing second order of trailers for fatality management. (4/10/2020)
- Update on Mask sterilization efforts with Battelle: (4/10/20)
  - Sites either currently running or will be running within two weeks: Stoneybrook, NY; Brooklyn, NY; Plain City, OH; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Washington, DC
  - Planned future states: Connecticut, New Jersey, Indiana, Florida, Texas, Michigan
- DOD approved MilAir transport to send nurses from Maine and Washington State to New York City. The mission is underway. (4/26/20)
- VA is sending is sending at least 1 NP and 1 Nurse to the IHS Shiprock Clinic to assist with the Navajo COVID-19 crisis. (4/26/20)
- VA has an increased need for Oxygen concentrators and portable ventilators. FEMA is being prioritized over VA and these are becoming increasingly hard to obtain. Update: VA began discussions with manufacturers regarding these items today. The issue is that the vendors received 10 months’ worth of demand in three weeks and it has depleted current inventory. Vendors have increased product lines and estimate mid-May before supply availability. (4/23/20)

### **Construction, Contracting and Supply Chain**

- VA’s Financial Services Center established an Emergency Buyers sub-group of 13,000 Government Purchase Cardholders within VA’s Amazon Business Account providing special access to select vendors for critically needed supplies in accordance with the Chief Acquisition Officer’s COVID-19 supply chain efforts



- During the COVID-19 emergency, private sector entities have offered to donate equipment and supplies needed to protect personnel from contracting COVID-19. VA OGC worked a delegation of approval to VISN Directors to ensure efficient approval of donated gifts.
- Construction projects in Massachusetts, California, New York, Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico have been either stopped completely or activities severely curtailed by this national emergency and shelter in place orders.
- US Army Corps of Engineers will visit the former Denver medical facility to assess the building's viability for FEMA/HHS use.
- On March 24<sup>th</sup>, CAO reported to VA OIG a vendor in Louisiana who is offering medical supplies and equipment up to 1000% above average cost and likely does not meet FDA guidelines.
- VA working with various vendors for purchase of Chloroquine Phosphate and ventilators.
  - Use of the new Open Opportunities, a governmentwide platform offering professional development opportunities to current federal employees, as a central location for federal agencies to post details, microdetails, and/or temporary assignments.
- VA OGC partnered with the VA Voluntary Service to create a universal gift form for distribution within VA listing general departmental needs during the COVID-19 emergency. Each VAMC Director can solicit and accept the listed donations pursuant to VHA Directive 4721, VHA General Post Fund – Gifts and Donations. (3/27/20)
- On March 30<sup>th</sup>, the Denver Logistics Center (DLC) will receive a shipment of 500 iPads for the VA Video Connect (VVC) Community. These iPads are designed to allow “skype” type appointments between the Veteran patient and the Care Provider. The DLC will prepare the iPads for immediate shipment to fulfill backorders.
- Invocation of the Defense Production Act (DPA) resulted in confusion in the commercial sector as to how to prioritize orders, resulting in delays and cancellations on orders and deliveries to VA. Under the DPA, the FEMA Task Force, used its authority to divert materiel originally offered to VA for delivery to the SNS.
  - VA orders for masks, gowns, gloves, and PAPP have been cancelled by our vendors. This is high risk for not only our enterprise, but for the Administration as our hospitals will be without supplies starting late this week.
  - FEMA and HHS have been made aware; VA is awaiting resolution from them.

\*Issue has since been resolved
- VA Acquisition Office is working with the VHA's Care in the Community Program Office to establish a Global Nurse Advice Line contract to support increased phone consults for Veteran care in support of Coronavirus.
- VA contracted with Battelle for use of their Critical Care Decontamination Systems (CCDS) to sanitize N95 masks for Brooklyn, Manhattan, and East Orange, NY medical centers. Great partnership with HHS and FDA led to the approval to reuse masks 20x after sanitization. (4/3/20)
- VA has administered more than 18,900 tests and has more than 3,000 additional tests on hand. (4/3/20)
- Contract awarded for Alternate Care Sites-Four (4) 125 bed, soft-sided, portable medical structure. Awaiting delivery and selection of sites. (4/3/20)
- Contract awarded for Mobile Field Hospital. Awaiting delivery and selection of site. (4/3/20)
- National Acquisition Center's (NAC) Service & Distribution Center is providing additional warehouse space for VHA ordered and FEMA provided PPE products; VHA to identify space required and delivery schedules. (4/6/20)
- VA was prepared to accept a donation of 1 million N-95 masks and other PPE from Salesforce. However, FEMA General Counsel determined that the donation was too large for VA to accept.

Secretary Wilkie sent a formal letter to FEMA Administrator asking for authority to accept the donation OR purchase the materials directly. (4/9/20)

- VA awarded an \$8M urgent sole source contract to SDV Office Systems for 97 Tablo® Helodialysis Systems for treating patients with COVID-19 infection. The contractor will deliver as many units as possible before July 31, 2020. The need is particularly pressing for patients with end-stage kidney disease being treated with intermittent hemodialysis (HD). (4/10/20)
- VA request to POTUS for Advanced Payment Authority was approved and signed by POTUS. (4/11/20)
- VA completed a temporary delegation which will apply to the Federal Supply Schedule for Healthcare Staffing Services' ceiling price determination for field contracting officers to use. This delegation, which is available for use until July 1, 2020, will provide immediate nursing staff augmentation for our medical centers. (4/11/20)
- VA reported to OIG regarding a potential case of price gouging. DOJ issued a press release on April 10th concerning the arrest of Christopher Parris, who attempted to sell VA \$750 million of nonexistent masks and other PPE: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/georgia-man-arrested-attempting-defraud-department-veterans-affairs-multimillion-dollar-covid>
- VA has partnered with Facebook to provide more than 7,400 Facebook portal devices. The American Red Cross Military Veteran Caregiver Network will store and ship the devices to qualifying Veterans in pairs. Devices are available today (4/15/2020) for Veterans and their caregivers and families to reduce isolation, improve mental health, wellness, and social connectedness at home. (4/15/20)
- VA acquired the former Garland-Baylor, Scott & White hospital, April 3, to increase its capacity to care for Veterans and support the department's response to COVID-19. The 470,000 square foot facility was donated by Baylor, Scott & White and will eventually serve as an outpatient and specialty care clinic within the VA North Texas Health Care System. The hospital will be able to open Monday April 20. (4/17/20)
- VA National Acquisition Center FSS coordinated with National Association of State Procurement Officials (NAPSO) authorizing State and Local governments to procure Covid-19 support using FSS vendors/contracts. (4/17/20)
- The Strategic Acquisition Center awarded a purchase order for 5 million, 3-ply disposable medical masks (non-N95) valued at \$2.8M. The contract was signed on April 22, 2020. (4/23/2020)
- VA may now utilize the contract HHS funded through DLA to receive N95 mask decontamination and transportation services from Battelle without reimbursing HHS (no cost to supplemental funding). (4/24/20)
- On 5/4/20, the Strategic Acquisition Center awarded a contract to Hanes for 2.4M cloth masks valued at \$1.9M. This contract has ten optional Contract Line Item Number (CLINs) with the possibility to supply ten million additional masks. (5/5/20)
- On 5/1/20, the National Acquisition Center's Federal Supply Schedule Service (FSS) awarded a contract for COVID-19 testing to Eurofins Viracor. The vendor offers the following capacity: 10,000 daily COVID-19 testing to VA nationwide. (5/6/20)
- VA will be accepting a donation of 800,000 face shields from Apple. The shipment should arrive in the next two weeks. (5/6/20)
- VA successfully accepted 500,000 masks from the Republic of Korea (ROK) on 5/12/2020. This donation will help support our efforts to ensure Veterans and Employee safety as we continue to combat COVID-19. (5/12/2020)
- Strategic Acquisition Center (SAC) awarded a contract to M. Hidary and Company for 1M Level II Gowns valued at \$7.12M.
- VA's National Acquisition Center's (NAC) Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) Service awarded a new COVID-19 antibody test (SARS-CoV-2-SEROLOGY (COVID19) Antibody (IGG), Immunoassay) contract

to Quest Diagnostics. This contract became effective May 13, 2020 and it has the capacity to perform 150,000 tests per night. (5/18/2020)

**From:** Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris)  
**Sent:** Tue, 2 Jun 2020 21:49:12 +0000  
**To:** Tucker, Brooks  
**Cc:** (b)(6); Powers, Pamela  
**Subject:** VA\_6.2.20\_COVID 19 Daily Report  
**Attachments:** VA\_6.2.20\_COVID 19 Daily Report.docx, VA Employee COVID Cases 6-2-2020.pdf, VA Veteran COVID Cases 6-2-2020.docx

Brooks,

See attached.

- Albuquerque VAMC received 5 new COVID-19 positive non-Veteran IHS transfers from Gallup Medical Center
- No new Mission Assignments
- Outreach
  - Sec. Wilkie was interviewed by KDVR TV (Denver FOX).
  - Sec. Wilkie was interviewed by WABC TV (NYC ABC).
  - Sec. Wilkie was interviewed by KELO-TV (Sioux Falls, SD CBS)
  - Sec. Wilkie had his weekly update call with HVAC Chairman Mark Takano and Ranking Member Phil Roe
- Case Data
  - 12,218 Total Positive Veteran COVID-19 Cases (+185 cases from yesterday)
  - 1,281 Positive Veteran Cases (-146 cases from yesterday)
  - 9,727 Convalescent Veteran Cases (+305 cases from yesterday). Convalescent cases are defined as 14 days post positive test results for outpatients and discharged status for inpatients. These are essentially “recovered” cases.
    - Veteran Deaths: 1,210 veterans have died from COVID-19 (+26 from yesterday)
    - 1,156 Employee Cases (+11), no new employee deaths
    - Data for Veterans and Employees Attached

**COVID-19 – Agency Response**  
**6/2/2020**  
**Department of Veterans Affairs**

**Administrative Actions, Waivers, and Other Programmatic Change that Impact Agency Provision of Service or Mission Delivery (Externally Facing)**

- VA has received 45 Mission Assignments during COVID-19, 35 are still active, 10 have been closed
- Albuquerque received 5 new COVID-19 positive non-Veteran IHS transfers from Gallup
- **Update on FEMA Active VA Mission**
  - VA NY Harbor: 111 patients, 79 discharges, 18 deaths
  - VA New Jersey: 31 patients, 19 discharge, 7 deaths
  - VA San Francisco: 1 discharge, no deaths
  - VA Miami: 1 discharge, no deaths
  - VA Ann Arbor: 36 patients, 21 discharges, 6 deaths
  - Detroit: 22 patients, 15 discharge, 7 death
  - Albuquerque: 6 patients from Navajo Nation, previously in Gallup IHS facility. 4 discharged, 1 death.
  - VA Chicago (Hines, Jesse Brown Marion) – 24 patients, 6 discharges, 1 death
  - Spokane, WA – 2 patients, no discharges, no deaths
  - Hew Haven CT – Homeless Outreach Assistance, 3 clinicians
  - Oregon / Roseburg VAMC - 25 Med/Surg beds. No patients received at this time.
  - New Jersey State Veterans Homes (Paramus & Meno Park) – Nurses, staffing, telehealth, and supplies.
  - Florida Nursing Home Support: Starting today, VA will begin providing staffing and technical support to 12 non-VA nursing homes in Florida, a state that has seen COVID-19 emerge among these vulnerable populations. More than 80 physicians, nurses and nurses aides will begin rotations at these homes to provide direct care and advice about controlling infectious disease.
  - Portland Oregon Beds - 25 short term acute care (med/surg) and 5 intensive care (ICU) beds at the Portland VAMC for non-covid and covid-positive patients.
  - Washington State Veteran Home support and testing support
  - Alabama - Bill Nichols State Veterans Home in Alexander City, AL, provide 4 registered nurses and 5 nursing assistants
  - Pennsylvania - Nursing Home Staff - Spring City, PA Staff RN/LPN (20)
  - Delaware – Department of Public Health Staff Support. VA is sending 10 RN/LPN/NA to cover 3 nursing homes
  - Wisconsin – Provide 2 pharmacists and 2 respiratory therapists to a mission in Milwaukee
  - Nebraska – VA will provide testing support in Omaha
  - Des Moines/Iowa City – 20 med/surg or ICU beds, no patients received to date
  - Iowa – VA to provide staffing to support State Veteran Home at Marshalltown, Iowa. Staffing to include RN (4); LPN (16); NA (27)
  - California - Nursing Home Staff support. Four 6-person teams to provide nursing consultation support to long term care (nursing home) facilities in Los Angeles County region
  - Illinois Nursing Home Support – VA will provide 60 of our Community Living Center beds for Illinois civilian nursing home patients. The beds will be provided at the Edward J. Hines



- Medical (Chicago), Danville Medical Center (Danville) and/or Lovell Federal Health Care Center (North Chicago).
- New Jersey – VA to provide 4 licensed social workers to support patients in State Veterans homes; specific location TBD
  - Texas – VA will provide State Veterans Homes Testing and Support, will also provide staff and support services to assist Texas Veterans Land Board with collection and processing of biological samples for testing and analysis. Services will be provided for patients and staff at state veterans homes in Floresville, TX and Temple, TX.
  - VA also extended our liaisons detail to the FEMA National Response Coordination Center until June 3, 2020.
  - Support to Indian Health Centers and Navajo Nation: 15 personnel for a 30-day period. (May 5 – June 5). IHS Indian Medical Center in Gallup NM, seven (7) ER nurses and 2 RNs; IHS Crownpoint, Hospital two (2) RN's; IHS Kayenta Health Center, two (2) RNs; IHS Northern Navajo Medical Center, two (2) RNs
  - Navajo Nation Nursing Support – Tuba City. VA will provide (6) Med Surge Nurses (RNs), (6) Emergency Room RNs and (4) Intensive Care Unit Nurses (RNs)
  - North Carolina – VA will provide testing services in support of vulnerable residents/patients and staff at licensed care facilities.
  - North Carolina - Staff Support to nursing home including: 1 van driver, 3 Community Living Center nurses, 2 infection control nurses, 1 social work, 1 public affairs officer, 4 nurse screeners, 1 Administrative lead, 4 RNs, and 4 LPNs.
  - New Jersey: VA will provide (5) teams of 10 nursing staff to assist with COVID-19 outbreaks in private nursing homes. We will be providing clinical staffing support, and education and consultation on infection control procedures
  - Rhode Island: 12 nursing assistants to provide patient care at State Veterans Home in Bristol
  - Oregon: VA will provide long term care support teams to the State of Oregon to conduct assessments and training at long term care facilities at multiple locations throughout the state.
  - Minnesota – VA will provide up to 50 RN/LPN personnel to support direct patient care at long term care facilities for up to 30 days.
  - Mississippi – VA will provide staff and support services to assist Mississippi State Veterans Homes with fit testing and proper utilization of PPE. VHA will provide two teams of 4 to provide training and education of PPE; an industrial hygienist for fit testing and up to 8 RNs.
  - Mississippi – State Veteran Home Staff Support. VA will provide registered nurses, 2 licensed practical nurses and 2 certified nursing assistants or similar
  - As of 6/2/2020, 1,858 (+30 from Monday) COVID-19 Interments have taken place or are scheduled at VA National Cemeteries (1,745 complete: 113 pending).
  - VBA contract vendors reported a cumulative total of **253,802** unique Veterans whose contract examinations have been impacted by the pandemic.
  - **299,793** disability examinations are pending, including those being held for in-person exams.
  - There are 161 virtual hearings scheduled for the week of June 1<sup>st</sup> and the Board of Veterans Appeals expects to schedule more as the week goes on. To date, the Board has successfully completed 1,102 virtual hearings. Through May 31<sup>st</sup> the Board has signed 70,984 decisions

#### **CARES ACT IMPLEMENTATION – KEY ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES**

**(Please also include activities related to the implementation of other COVID-related supplementary funding legislation, including P.L. 116-127 and P.L. 116-123)**

- CARES Act, Section 4022. Foreclosure Moratorium and Consumer Right to Request Forbearance: notified OMB's Veterans Affairs and Defense Health Branch of interpretation concerns to ensure that all federal housing agencies impacted by these sections are consistent in implementing the new law, as requested by OMB.
- OIT will complete circuit installs at all four gateways by April 3<sup>rd</sup>, doubling network bandwidth to 160GBs
- OIT has approved 31 COVID-19 Memos valued at \$371.02M
- Working with VHA, VBA, OIT to prepare spend plans and regular reporting templates for CARES Act funding.
- VBA Received \$13M in GOE supplemental funding for COVID-19 related issues such as purchase of equipment and supplies to support telework posture and employee health and safety as well as scheduled deep cleaning of buildings/offices occupied by VBA personnel
- Office of Information Technology CARES Act Supplemental Funding apportionment (\$2.15B) approved by OMB. Funds are available for execution.
- VHA to begin initial distribution to the Healthcare Networks of \$5.3 billion (from the total \$14.4 billion) in Medical Services funding from the CARES Act Supplemental based upon:
  - FY 2020 Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation (VERA) Model
  - VHA's Bed Management System
  - VHA's Managerial Cost Accounting (MCA) system
- As of 6 April 2020, VA reported \$768.1 million in total COVID -19 obligations, an increase of \$371 million from 2 April 2020.
- OIT has Increased telehealth capacity by 15% and can support 11K concurrent sessions
- As of April 9, VA obligated \$768M in total COVID -19 obligations and anticipates surpassing \$1B in COVID-19 related obligations by the end of this week.
  - Examples of VA Purchases
    - Centralized Contracting: 60 awards valued at \$338,803,651.
    - National Acquisition Center (NAC): \$2,499,317 (Pharmacy/Medical Equipment)
    - Technology Acquisition Center (TAC): \$308,789,039 (IT Equipment)
    - Strategic Acquisition Center (SAC): \$27,515,605 (Medical Surgical Supplies)
    - Veterans Health Administration (VHA) at the regional and local level: 1,633 awards valued at \$519,933,615 (Medical Surgical Supplies)
    - Contracts to support national purchases of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and medical equipment (e.g., ventilators) as well as costs associated with level-setting PPE and medical equipment throughout the country
    - Travel, housing, and other support for employees deploying to other medical centers
    - Salary costs incurred to hire and retain staff to support the pandemic
    - Medical facility costs mostly related to reconfiguring space to open additional beds and creating negative pressure rooms
    - Costs associated with Community Care to cover increased demand in the community by Veterans for both COVID-19 related and non-COVID related medical care
- As of April 14, VA obligated \$959 million in total COVID -19 obligations.
- As of April 21, VA's COVID-19 total obligations are \$1.160 billion:
  - VHA obligations: \$841 million
  - OIT obligations: \$319 million

- To date, \$49 million has been spent on Telehealth capabilities and enhancements, which include \$4 million in bandwidth upgrades and \$42 million to purchase 38K mobile devices and 22K laptops.
- VHA spending on State Home Grants, PPE to state homes, etc.
  - **State Homes:** To date, 23 grant packages totaling \$23 million have been received for COVID-19 related projects. Statutory and legislative challenges in the current program are impacting VA's ability to provide the funds before 1 October 2020. Legislative relief is necessary.
  - **Medical Facilities:** To date, \$170 million has been distributed to the Office of Emergency Management in response to operational issues and overtime pay, and \$40 million has been distributed to facilities for expansion of inpatient bed capabilities to include HVAC equipment for negative-pressure rooms and engineering staff overtime.
  - **PPE to State Homes:** VHA facilities considering a request from a State Veteran Home for PPE must take into account the impact that providing PPE to State Veteran Homes has on VHA facility operational stock.
- As of Apr 28, VA's COVID-19 total obligations are \$1.531 billion (+\$371 million from Apr 22)
  - VHA obligations: \$1.21 billion (+\$369 million), including recent obligations for:
    - \$192 million in grants for the homelessness programs (Grant and Per Diem and Supportive Services for Veterans Families); \$52 million for supplies including protective gear such as masks and gowns; and \$66 million for medical equipment
  - OIT obligations: \$321 million (+\$2 million), including:
    - Expansion of Telehealth to include 38,000 mobile devices and 22,000 laptops; doubled bandwidth at 30 sites; hardware upgrades to increase video teleconferencing systems by 1,200 concurrent calls; and increased cloud capability to increase capacity by 6,000 concurrent calls
- As of May 5, VA's COVID-19 total obligations are \$1.688 billion (+\$156 million from Apr 28)
  - VHA obligations: \$1.326 billion (+\$117 million); Significant procurements this week include \$6.7 million for PPE and \$4 million in testing support for COVID-19.
  - OIT obligations: \$357 million (+\$36 million)
  - VBA obligations: \$3 million (+\$3 million)
- As of May 12, VA's COVID-19 **total obligations** are \$1.823 billion (+\$135 million from May 5)
  - VHA obligations: \$1.427 billion (+\$101 million)
  - OIT obligations: \$391 million (+\$34 million)
    - Significant procurements include \$30.64 million to increase support/installation of IT equipment in call centers
  - VBA obligations: \$3.7 million (+\$110 thousand)
    - Significant procurements include \$121.5 thousand on supplies and \$72.6 thousand on facility deep cleaning
- As of May 12, VA's COVID-19 **total expenditures** are \$610 million
- As of May 19, VA's COVID-19 total obligations are \$1.951 billion (+\$128 million from May 12):
  - VHA obligations: \$1.530 billion (+\$103 million)
  - OIT obligations: \$415 million (+\$24 million)
  - Significant procurements include on-boarding 27 temporary civilian hires; hardware to support Activations and Cyber Security; and additional laptops/cell phones to support increases in VHA telehealth/telemedicine.
- As of May 26, VA's COVID-19 total expenditures are \$721 million (+\$111 million from May 12)
- As of May 26, VA's COVID-19 **total obligations** are \$2.194 billion (+\$243 million from May 19)

- VHA obligations: \$1.662 billion (+\$132 million)
- OIT obligations: \$524 million (+\$109 million)
- VBA obligations: \$3.9 million (+\$495 thousand)
  - Significant procurements include: \$61.9 thousand on travel and per diem for repatriating staff and their families from Manila; \$36.4 thousand on supplies (bulk procurements of plexiglass shields, hand sanitizers, masks, gloves, disinfectant wipes, etc.); and \$7.7 thousand on facility deep cleanings.
- Gen Admin (HR&A/OSP) obligations: \$188 thousand (+\$188 thousand)
  - Significant procurements include: overtime; area disinfecting; barrier installation; disinfecting agents; and PPE.

**Major upcoming decisions that require POTUS or Task Force-level decisions (only the biggest, most sensitive items should be included here, many agencies may not have anything to report in this section)**

- **NSTR**

**Guidance, Communication and Outreach with Stakeholders**

- SECVA Media:
  - Sec. Wilkie was interviewed by KDVR TV (Denver FOX).
  - Sec. Wilkie was interviewed by WABC TV (NYC ABC).
  - Sec. Wilkie was interviewed by KELO-TV (Sioux Falls, SD CBS)
- SECVA calls to Governors or Members of Congress on COVID-19 related issues:
  - Sec. Wilkie had his weekly update call with HVAC Chairman Mark Takano and Ranking Member Phil Roe
- VA Issues the following press release
  - VA to Begin Legal Process of replacing three German POW Headstone  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5460>

- **Other Notable Responses**

- 12,218 Total Positive Veteran COVID-19 Cases (+185 cases from yesterday)
  - 1,281 Positive Veteran Cases (-146 cases from yesterday)
  - 9,727 Convalescent Veteran Cases (+305 cases from yesterday). Convalescent cases are defined as 14 days post positive test results for outpatients and discharged status for inpatients. These are essentially “recovered” cases.
  - Veteran Deaths: 1,210 veterans have died from COVID-19 (+26 from yesterday)
  - 64 Active Veteran cases remain greater New York City Area (Bronx, Hudson Valley, Northport, Brooklyn), 65 in Washington, DC, and 53 in Chicago
  - VA Veteran Case Data attached
- **1,156 VA Positive Employee cases**
    - This is an increase of 11 cases from VA’s last available data.

- The largest clusters of employee cases are our New Orleans Medical Center with 188 employees testing positive and our Greater New York City Area Medical Centers (Bronx, Hudson Valley, Northport, Brooklyn) with 264 employees testing positive
- Other employee hot spots at our Medical Centers include: New Jersey (53) Chicago (41), Washington, DC (27), Boston (36), Dallas (65), Baltimore (32), Portland (24), Birmingham (28)
- To date there have been 32 employee deaths: 1 in Ann Arbor, 1 in Detroit, 3 in Indianapolis, 3 in Reno, 1 in Shreveport, 1 in Houston, 1 in Los Angeles. 1 in West Palm Beach, 2 in the Bronx (NY), 1 Manhattan (NY), 1 in Denver and 1 in Brockton (Boston), 1 in Washington, DC and 1 in Northport (NY), 1 in Miami and 1 in New Orleans, 1 in Wilkes-Barre (PA), 5 in New Jersey and 1 in Loma Linda (CA), 1 in Queens (NY) and 1 in Bedford (MA), 1 in Fayetteville NC and 1 in Syracuse, New York.
- VA Employee Case Data is attached

### **Historical Input**

### **MEDIA, NEWS RELEASE, OUTREACH TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND GOVERNORS, OUTREACH TO VA STAKEHOLDERS**

- **The Secretary of Veterans Affairs had the following interviews with press:**

- Jeff “Goldy” Goldberg, WFNC Radio
- NBC 4 w/ Scott MacFarlane
- Jim Blythe, Alliance 4 the Brave (Dallas)
- Kirsti Marohn, Minnesota Public Radio
- Ware Morning Show (Radio), San Antonio
- Fox News Rundown (Taped)
- Wake Up Tucson, AZ
- Fred Thys, WBUR Radio (NPR Boston)
- Moon Griffon Show (LA radio)
- Leo Shane of Military Times (print)
- Pensacola’s Morning News (FL radio)
- WWL Radio (New Orleans, LA radio)
- The Drive with Lee Matthews (Oklahoma City, OK radio)
- Kevin Miller in the Morning (Boise, ID radio)
- The Marc Cox morning Show (St Louis, MO radio)
- Larry O’Connor, WMAL (DC/CA radio)
- KOAN Radio (Anchorage, AK)
- Montana Talks Radio.
- COX Media w/ Samantha Manning
- The Ross Kaminsky Show (CO radio)
- Lisa Rein, The Washington Post
- The Conservative Circus (Phoenix radio)
- The Bob Rose Show (FL radio)
- Charlie James Show (SC radio)
- Mobile Mornings (AL radio)
- The Mark Sterling Show (NC radio)
- Fox Across America (Fox News Radio)



- Richmond's Morning News (VA radio)
- Ringside Politics (LA radio/tv)
- The Erick Erickson Show (GA radio)
- The Sam Malone Show (Houston, TX Radio)
- The Dale Jackson Show (Huntsville, AL Radio)
- AM Tampa Bay Radio
- The John Fredericks Radio Show
- The Matt and Aunie Show (AL radio)
- The Schilling Show (VA radio)
- The Annie Frey Show (St. Louis radio)
- The Wilkow Majority on Sirius XM radio
- Bernie and Sid in the Morning (NYC radio)
- Tom Jordan and Roberta Jasina (Detroit radio)
- The Frank Beckmann Show (Detroit radio)
- The Heidi Harris Show (Las Vegas radio)
- The Steve Gruber Show (Lansing/Flint, MI radio)
- Morning Talk with Martha Zoller (Atlanta, GA radio)
- The Brian Kilmeade Show (Fox News Radio)
- The David Webb Show (SiriusXM radio)
- The Todd Starnes Show (Fox News Radio)
- Joe Piscopo in the Morning (NYC Radio)
- South Florida's First News with Jimmy Cefalo (Miami/Ft. Lauderdale Radio)
- The Bill Spadea Show (NJ Radio)
- The Kuhner Report (Boston Radio)
- Mornings with Brian Haldane (Baton Rouge, LA Radio)
- Pat Kime of Military.com.
- Ben Kesling of The Wall Street Journal
- The Joyce Kaufman Show (South Florida radio)
- Quil Lawrence of NPR
- MSNBC Live with Stephanie Ruhle
- WTKR TV Norfolk, VA
- KSWB TV San Diego
- WCAU-TV Philadelphia
- WGN-TV National
- WFAA-TV Dallas
- Midday News with James MacKay (Boston Radio)
- JJ Green of WTOP (DC Radio)
- Liz MacDonald on Fox Business
- Martha MacCallum of Fox News
- AM Tampa Bay radio
- Lars Larson (radio)
- The Fayetteville Observer
- Prairie Public Radio (Fargo, ND)
- KTHH Seattle (radio)
- The Birmingham Fox Affiliate (local Birmingham, AL tv)
- Shannon Bream
- Nebraska Public Radio
- WTOP Radio (DC)

- Think Show, Dallas NPR
- WESA FM Radio (Pittsburgh, PA).
- KBST Radio (Big Spring, TX).
- KOKI-TV Tulsa, OK.
- WCIV-TV Charleston, SC.
- KALB-TV Alexandria, LA.
- KSNV-TV Las Vegas, NV.
- Fox and Friends First this morning.
- WLBT-TV Jackson, MS.
- KPBS-TV San Diego, CA.
- WGN Radio.
- Newsmax.
- Fox News Radio
- America's HQ on Fox News <https://video.foxnews.com/v/6158768721001#sp=show-clips>
- Ed Henry on Fox News
- ABC News' Martha Raddatz
- CBS Evening News' Jan Crawford
- WJLA TV (DC ABC)

- **VA Has Issued the Following News Releases**

- VA extends financial, benefits and claims relief to Veterans  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5412>
- Secretary Wilkie thanked Wounded Warrior Project for \$10 million commitment to aid Veterans  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5421>
- VA, Facebook and American Red Cross provide Portal video calling devices to Veterans, caregivers, and families <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5422>
- VA Tele-mental health visits on the rise amid COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5418>
- VA Mobilizes 3D Printing Resources nationwide to fight COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5419>
- VA Announces, "Fourth Mission" Actions to Help American Respond to COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5420>
- VA Partners with IRS/Dept. of Treasury to Deliver Economic Impact Payments  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5423>
- VA's telehealth system grows as Veterans have access to unlimited data while using VA Video Connect <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5426>
- VA, DoD implement new capability for bidirectional sharing of health records with community partners <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5425>
- VA acquires Texas community hospital to fight COVID-19 and care for Veterans in the future  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5424>
- Timeline on how VA prepared for COVID-19 outbreak and continues to keep Veterans safe  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5427>
- VA researchers to study COVID-19 in aging Veterans with dementia  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5428>
- VA health app now available to Veterans across all mobile and web platforms <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5430>

- VA hiring jumps 37% in response to COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5429>
- Joint Statement from DHS and VA on Continued Collaboration Throughout COVID-19 Pandemic  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5431>
- VA establishes the department's first history office  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5432>
- VA joins XPRIZE Pandemic Alliance to combat COVID-19 and future outbreaks  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5433>
- VA Trust in Veteran Health Care Rises above 90% for the first time  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5435>
- VA expands access to virtual hearings  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5436>
- VA names Brooks Tucker Acting Chief of Staff  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5437>
- VA participating in drug, plasma trials in fight against COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5438>
- VA is protecting and Serving All of America  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5439>
- VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry reaches a major milestone  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5441>
- VA Enhances National COVID-19 Reporting Summary Tool  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5440>
- VA Gets Boost from CARES Act to provide emergency assistance to Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness during COVID-19 crisis.  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5442>
- Process for Charting the Course - Agency Plan on Returning to Pre-COVID-19 Operations  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5443>
- Post-COVID-19 Operations Plan to VA Leaders and Staff.  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5443>
- VA and Parkinson's Foundation partner to help Veterans Living with Parkinson's disease  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5444>
- VA Kicks off Mental Health Campaign emphasizing mental health support  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5445>
- VA and Parkinson's Foundation partner to help Veterans Living with Parkinson's disease  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5444>
- VA Kicks off Mental Health Campaign emphasizing mental health support  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5445>
- CARES Act helping VA boost protections for Veterans  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5415>
- VA appeals production at all time high  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5414>
- VA's Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System provides surge-support to combat COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5417>
- VA accepts Mask Donation from South Korea to Assist with COVID-19 efforts, longtime partner and ally sends 500,000 masks  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5447>
- VA Releases New COVID Coach Mobile App  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5448>

- VA National Cemeteries to Commemorate Memorial Day  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5450>
- VA reports rising patient capacity, stable supplies and staffing 8 weeks into COVID Emergency  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5449>
- VA, multiple agencies launch joint Mortgage and Housing Assistance Website for Americans Impacted by COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5451>
- VA Encourages Donations to help homeless veterans or those at risk of homelessness during COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5453>
- VA lead facilities reintroduce health care services while ensuring a safe environment  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5454>
- Secretary Wilkie Memorial Day Message 2020  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5455>
- Gary Sinise Foundation Donates Meals to VA Hospital Staff During COVID-19  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5456>
- VA Conducts Deep Dive Study into effects of COVID-19 on Veterans  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5457>
- VA Resume Compensation and Pension Exams at select locations  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5458>
- White House Order to End union subsidies expands clinical space for Veterans, nets \$1.4 billion for taxpayers  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5459>

- **The Secretary of Veterans Affairs made calls to the following Governors to discuss State Veteran Home support and other COVID-19 issues:**

- Maine – Janet Mills
- Oregon – Kate Brown
- Alabama – Kay Ivey
- New Hampshire – Chris Sununu
- New Jersey – Phil Murphy
- South Carolina – Henry McMaster
- Oklahoma – Kevin Stitt
- Georgia – Brian Kemp
- South Dakota – Kristi Noem
- Tennessee – Bill Lee
- Arkansas – Asa Hutchinson
- Ohio – Mike Dewine
- Iowa – Kim Reynolds
- Kansas – Laura Kelly
- Florida Governor Ron DeSantis
- Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy
- Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo
- Idaho Governor Brad Little
- Maryland Governor Larry Hogan

- New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy (5/20/2020)
- Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker (5/21/2020)
- **VA leadership has participated in the following Congressional Engagements**
  - Secretary Wilkie hosted weekly phone calls with Chairman Jerry Moran and Ranking Member Jon Tester of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.
  - Secretary Wilkie hosted weekly phone calls with Chairman Mark Takano and Ranking Member Phil Roe of the House Veterans Affairs Committee.
  - VA facilitated a briefing to Senate and House Authorizing committee staffers on VA's Emergency Management Disaster Plan for COVID-19.
  - Sent daily detailed updates to both House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees.
  - Sent 541 letters to Members of Congress and Committees clarifying the process for requests from states and localities for VA to activate its 4<sup>th</sup> MISSION.
  - VHA Executive in Charge, and the Assistant Secretary from Management briefed HVAC Chairman Takano on the \$19.6 Billion received in the supplemental funding bill (3/30/2020).
  - Secretary Wilkie briefed Sen. Boozman on Appropriations related issues. (4/2/2020)
  - The VA Chief Acquisition Officer briefed House Veterans Affairs Minority Staff on procurement, supply chain, etc. (4/6/2020)
  - VA Chief Financial Officers briefed the House and Senate Appropriations staffers (4 Corners) on VHA's Supplemental Funding distribution plan for the Families First and CARES Acts. (4/7/2020)
  - Human Resources and Administration office briefed House Veterans Affairs and Senate Veteran's Affairs Committee staff on workforce challenges during COVID-19. The briefing covered 1) what VA is doing to recruit/hire nurses and staff; 2) how VA is keeping staff safe; 3) how VA is incorporating feedback from union leaders and safety officers during this COVID-19 response. (4/8/2020)
  - Secretary Wilkie conducted update calls on VA's response to COVID with House Appropriations MilConVA Subcommittee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman-Shultz, House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jerry Moran. (4/9/2020)
  - The Executive in Charge, VHA had a phone briefing with HVAC Chairman Mark Takano on VA response to COVID-19. (4/13/2020)
  - Acting Deputy Secretary Powers held separate conference calls with Sen Moran (SVAC Chair), Sen Bozeman (SAC-VA), CM Takano (HVAC Chair), and CM Roe (HVAC Ranking); discussed COVID response. (4/15/2020)
  - The Chief Information Officer Jim Gferer held a call with House and Senate MilConVA Subcommittee staff. (4/16/2020)
  - ADEPSEC Powers had a call with Senator Brian Schatz (Hawaii), Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee MilConVA. (4/20/2020)
  - Veteran's Health Administration CFO and VA budget staff briefed House and Senate Appropriations staffers on VHA's CARES Act Supplemental Funding supporting the VA Homelessness Program. (4/22/2020)
  - Veterans Health Administration and Office of Information and Technology subject matter experts briefed House and Senate Appropriations staff on the use and expansion of Telehealth capabilities in response to COVID-19. (4/25/2020)
  - The VHA Chief Financial Officer briefed House and Senate Appropriations staff on the \$150 million for State Home Construction Grants and \$606 million for Medical Facilities including



Non-Recurring Maintenance, as well as, the provision that allows VHA to provide PPE to State Homes in response to COVID-19. (4/27/2020)

- VHA subject matter experts held a call with the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Staff to brief them on VA's support for State Veteran Homes. (4/29/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie held a phone call with West Virginia Senators Manchin and Shelly Capito Moore. (4/30/2020)
- Leaderships from the Office of Logistics and Constructions and VHA Procurement Office briefed House Veterans Affairs minority staff on supply chain efforts. (5/1/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie had a phone call with HAC MilConVA Subcommittee Chair Debbie Wasserman Schulz. to update on COVID and formally decline the Subcommittee's invite for a May hearing. (5/6/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie had a phone call with Sen. Jack Reed on PPE request for state of Rhode Island. (5/8/2020)
- Acting Deputy Secretary Powers had a call with Sen. Hassan to discuss the partnership with New Hampshire regarding a PPE shipment. (5/8/2020)
- The Executive in Charge, VHA briefed House Veterans Affairs, Senate Veterans Affairs and Appropriation Committee staff members on COVID-19 response.
- Executive in Charge, VHA held a call with members of the House Appropriations Committee.
- VBA Executives briefed staff from SVAC (Majority and Minority) and HVAC (Majority and Minority) on COVID-19 efforts as well as updates on Compensation and Pension contract exams, disability benefits questionnaires, claims processing and appeals. (5/8/2020)
- Assistant Secretary of OIT, Jim Gfrerer briefed Representatives Lee and Levin on technological implications of COVID-19 on the GI Bill. (5/8/2020)
- Leadership from Office of Logistics and Construction leadership briefed the Minority Staff for SVAC on supply chain issues related to VA's 4<sup>th</sup> Mission. (5/8/2020)
- SECVA hosted weekly phone call with SVAC Chairman Jerry Moran and Ranking Member Jon Tester (5/13/2020)
- A DEPSEC had a call with Ambassador John Hennessey-Niland, Republic of Palau (5/15/2020)
- Veterans Benefit Administration executives provided a briefing to Four Corners regarding updates on VBA's three-phased approach for returning to pre-COVID operations especially for VA regional offices and pension management centers, and the need for any additional funding around overtime and IT. (5/15/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie hosted a phone call with Alaska Senator Dan Sullivan
- Sec. Wilkie hosted his weekly update call with SVAC Chairman Jerry Moran and Ranking Member Jon Tester
- Veterans Benefit Administration executives provided a briefing to House Veterans Affairs and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Staff regarding updates on VBA's three-phased approach for returning to pre-COVID operations, the need for any additional funding around overtime and IT and pending examinations. (5/22/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie hosted a phone call with HAC MilCon Chair Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (5/27/2020)
- SECVA and VA leaders testified this morning in front of the HAC MilCon VA Subcommittee on VA's response to COVID-19 (5/28/2020)

#### **Other Key Engagements with VA Stakeholders**

- Secretary Wilkie joined President Trump on a stakeholder call with leaders of Veterans Service organizations to update them on the government wide response to COVID-19. (3/21/20)

- Under Secretary for Benefits and the Executive in Charge for VHA briefed Rep. Takano, Rep. Roe, Sen. Tester and Sen. Moran on COVID-19 Responses for Health and Benefits. (4/2/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie briefed the FEMA Task Force. Informed them that VA was prepared to open 1500 beds across our system to help relieve the pressure on states and localities. Each Veterans Affairs network has put in place contingency plans to expand the number of beds available, first for veterans and then our fellow citizens. (4/3/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie participated in a conference call on mental health services with the President, First Lady, the Vice President, Second Lady and HHS Sec. Alex Azar. (4/9/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie joined White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Doug Hoelscher for a briefing on VA and White House response to COVID-19. Over 200 State and Local Leaders joined the call. (4/14/2020)
- The Secretary hosted weekly phone calls with VSO leaders to provide them with an update on VA's response to the COVID 19 Pandemic.
- Secretary Wilkie and his leadership team hosted a call with State and Local Government Stakeholders to provide them an update on VA's response to COVID-19.
- Secretary visited the Washington DC hospital to thank staff and visit veterans. (4/21/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie hosted a teleconference with the Baltimore Veteran Treatment Court staff to include their Public Defender, District Attorney, veteran mentors and student attorneys. (4/22/2020)
- The Under Secretary for Benefits hosted multiple tele-townhalls for Veterans which, focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates.
- Under Secretary of Memorial Affairs Randy Reeves hosted a phone call with State Leaders to discuss issues regarding our National Cemeteries during COVID-19. (4/21/2020)
- VA Office of Intergovernmental Affairs reached out to 250 State Leaders to discuss topics such as support for states, updates or support on State Veterans homes, etc. (4/23/2020)
- VA Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and SMEs from VA's office of mental health held a briefing call with State and Local leaders including State Veterans Affairs Directors, County Veterans Service Officers, etc. on VA's efforts to serve Veterans with mental health issues during COVID-19. (4/28/2020)
- Plane load of Chinese-made PPE arrived in New Hampshire. ADEPSEC Powers traveled to NH to meet the plane with Governor Sununu and provided remarks at the event. VA worked an agreement with the State of New Hampshire via Governor Chris Sununu to procure a large amount of the supplies. (4/30/2020)
- SECVA hosted a weekly VSO update call to update our VSO stakeholders on our response to COVID-19 (5/13/2020)
- Under Secretary for Benefits Paul Lawrence hosted a Tele-Townhall for Veterans in Iowa on Tuesday, May 12, focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates, reaching 34,247 participants. (5/13/2020)
- Acting Deputy Secretary Pamela Powers visited the Richmond VA Medical Center in Virginia to meet with hospital leadership and thank them for their work during the response to COVID-19 (5/19/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie hosted his weekly update call with Veteran Service Organizations to brief them on VA's ongoing efforts regarding COVID-19 (5/20/2020)
- Secretary Wilkie joined the President for the Rolling to Remember Event at the White House (5/22/2020)
- Under Secretary for Benefits hosted a Tele-Townhall for Veterans in Virginia focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates, reaching 59,164 participants. (5/22/2020)

- Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Randy Reeves appeared on Fox News to discuss protocol at VA Cemeteries during Memorial Day  
<https://www.foxnews.com/media/va-undersecretary-addresses-flag-controversy-for-2020-memorial-day>
- Sec. Wilkie (Quantico National Cemetery), DEPSEC Powers (Culpepper VA National Cemetery) and USMA (Calverton National Cemetery) gave keynote remarks at small ceremonies for Memorial Day (5/25/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie hosted his weekly tele-conference with Veterans Service Organizations to update them on VA's COVID-19 response and other matters (5/27/2020)
- Sec. Wilkie and USB Paul Lawrence hosted a town hall for North Carolina Veterans (5/27/2020)
- Under Secretary for Benefits Paul Lawrence hosted a Tele-Townhall for Veterans in South Carolina focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates, reaching 48,414 participants. (6/1/2020)

### **Miscellaneous Communications from VA**

- VAntage blog published January 31st and continually updated since:  
<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/70999/cdc-coronavirus-information-and-resources/>
- VetResources emails, providing Coronavirus information and prevention guidance, were sent to 10.8 million subscribers. (2/5 and 2/26)
- Implemented VEText outreach to 8,858,481 Veterans to receive COVID-19 information and updates via text. (3/17/2020)
- Partnered with Facebook and the American Red Cross Military Veteran Caregiver Network to support Veterans and their families/caregivers in their homes through use of 7,488 free Facebook Portal devices.
- Conducted a "Lunch and Learn" a virtual online meeting to provide Veteran Service Organizations and community partners access to VA resources including COVID-19 response resources.
- Published VETResources to a total of 10.7M Veterans via email. (3/25/20).
- Secretary Wilkie sent a message to all VA employees expressing appreciation for their support during the COVID-19 pandemic, assuring them that their health and safety and that of VA's patients is critical, and offering resources to promote employee wellness. (3/17/2020)
- Deployed VEText based messages to Veterans that have a mobile phone number registered with VA (3/30/2020);
  - The texts reach approximately 7.1 million Veterans.
  - The message: "Dept of Veterans Affairs COVID-19 update: Stay home, stay safe, stay connected. VA has online tools for appointments, prescriptions, and more."  
<https://go.usa.gov/xDJkp>
- Developed a COVID-19 quick start guide (QSG) to be posted as part of the VA welcome kit and broadly distributed to Veterans. This distribution includes:
  - All MOU partners (corporate partners), Veteran Service Organizations (VSO), posted on social media pages (Twitter, Facebook, etc.), VA Program Offices for sharing across their partner networks, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA). (3/30/2020)
- Published public blog with guidance for Veterans/Caregivers seeking access to DoD facilities.
- Conducted a "Lunch and Learn" virtual online meeting to provide Veteran Service Organizations and community partners information on VA Mental Health resources and highlight the Cohen Veterans Network (CVN) mental health initiatives <http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/veocveblcohen/>
- The COVID Quick Start Guide (QSG) was posted at <https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit/> (4/7/2020)

- Initiated an advertising campaign for VHA recruiting. (4/7/2020)
- #LiveWholeHealth-Self Care Resources campaign for Veterans during Coronavirus crisis launched.
- PREVENTS reached out to Vets during the COVID crisis, releasing informational videos and concrete steps that Veterans and their families can take to care for their emotional well-being under the tag #MoreThanEverBefore and with the help of lead PREVENTS Ambassador Second Lady Karen Pence. (4/8/2020)
- <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/73363/live-whole-health-self-care-episode-1/>
- Sent a Mental-health focused VEText message to be distributed to 9 million Veterans (4/10/2020)
- Published *Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Financial Relief Actions and Time Limit Extensions* to VBA's Fact Sheets site. (4/10/2020)
- Published *VBA COVID-19 FAQs* to help address routine and non-urgent questions. (4/10/2020)
- Delivered VETResources digital newsletter to 10.7 Million Veterans. (4/16/2020)
- VA launched a new website on VA's external blog <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/roll-of-honor/> called the "Roll of Honor". This new webpage page came about as a result of not being able to provide committal services due to the COVID-19 crisis. The site provides an opportunity to remember those Veterans interred during this crisis and reflects interments in our cemeteries. Each day, NCA will add the names; branch of service and location of burial for each Veteran interred in a national cemetery on the previous day. (4/16/2020)
- VA's My HealtheVet team is hosting a webinar for Veterans about how to access VA telehealth services, in coordination with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. (4/17/2020)
- VA sent a text message via VETtext to 8.2M Veterans. Content is focused on financial hardship, and specifically action certain Veterans must take to claim an additional \$500 per dependent in stimulus funds. (5/1/2020)
- VBA published the Transition Talk series to VBA's Transition and Economic Development [website](#). Several video segments were posted that addressed our response to COVID-19 and VBA Program updates. (5/12/2020)
- Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits, Margarita Devlin, participated in a virtual event sponsored by the Association of Defense Communities and Blue Star Families.
- VA published the following video that discussed TAP procedures during COVID-19, including information on how to access web-based VA Benefits and Services courses and Military Life Cycle: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3agzM86sBk>
- Secretary Wilkie visited the Baltimore, Maryland VA Medical Center to thank employees for their life saving and important work during the Pandemic. (5/18/2020)
- Under Secretary for Benefits, Paul Lawrence hosted a Tele-Townhall for Veterans in Oklahoma on focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates, reaching 27,705 participants. (5/18/2020)
- PDUSB Margarita Devlin was the keynote speaker for Day 1 of VA Healthcare Online Summit. (5/19/2020)
- USB Paul Lawrence hosted a Tele-Townhall for Veterans in Kentucky focused on COVID-19 response and VBA Program updates, reaching 21,434 participants. (5/19/2020)
- VA shared our Transition Talk/Transition Assistance Program video segment through various social media channels and communication platforms. This segment of Military to Civilian Transition Talk discussed the cancellation of TAP events due to COVID-19 and the availability of online courses and where to access them. All Transition Talk episodes are located at <https://benefits.va.gov/transition/coronavirus.asp>
- Published Circular 26-20-19, *Additional Lender Guidance Concerning COVID-19*, to provide supplemental information regarding current VA policies and to provide further guidance to assist in



the processing of VA-guaranteed loans during the National Emergency. The circular is located at [https://www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/documents/circulars/26\\_20\\_19.pdf](https://www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/documents/circulars/26_20_19.pdf).

- Board of Veterans Appeals Chairman Cheryl Mason participated in an interview with Government Matters to discuss BVA's response to COVID-19 (5/22/2020)
- VBA posted information to its social media platforms concerning VA benefits debts. If a Veteran or beneficiary are financially unable to pay their debt(s) due to the COVID-19 crisis, they can call or submit their request online at <https://iris.custhelp.va.gov/app/ask/>.
  - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/VAVetBenefits/status/1265659176203833345?s=20>
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransBenefits/posts/10158288334263416:0>
- Total VA email messages sent from January 24, 2020 with reference to COVID-19 and/or Coronavirus in either the subject line or body content up to today: 288,566,268. VA email percentage directly related to COVID-19 Outreach is 288,566,268/519,433,938 or 54.2%.
- A VEText message describing Veterans Health Administration's re-opening plans was sent today to a total of 8.1M Veterans.

### **Guidance Documents and Human Capital**

- Provided HR Emergency Preparedness Guide to employees and managers to answer questions on a wide range of human capital topics (e.g., travel, leave, telework, employee relations, labor relations, compensation, staffing, reasonable accommodation); continue to update based on new guidance.
- Released system-wide policy released directing curtailment of routine appointments and elective surgeries at all VA facilities (3/17/20)
- Released guidance for Geriatrics & Extended Care Home & Community Based Services Programs to protect Veterans and staff including strict limitations on visitors in geriatric facilities, increasing the use of virtual modalities for clinical care, and screening all essential visitors or residents of a Veterans home prior to initiating contact.
- Released Chaplain guidance related to COVID-19 transmitted to the field (3/17/20) that continues to provide spiritual support to Veterans while using appropriate PPE or and utilizing virtual modalities for worship services. Any large-scale chaplain events have been cancelled. (3/17/20)
- Implementation of an Episodic Special Patient Icon in Bed Management Solution sent to the field
  - VA recently launched an Episodic Patient Icon to identify inpatient Veterans who are presumptive or confirmed positive cases during epidemics. These icons can also be used to identify negative pressure rooms which allows for real-time bed capacity across the enterprise.
- Issuing proposed COVID-19 Interim Suitability & Fingerprint Guidance to comply with social distancing recommendations; guidance includes temporarily suspension of an initial fingerprint check (SAC) prior to new employees and contractor's entry-on-duty (EOD); VA continuing other investigatory measures such as initiation of e-Quip.
- Finalized a response to various union demands to bargain implementation of measures and precautions being put in place by the Department to protect people and property during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The general response denies immediate negotiations while advising any impact and implementation bargaining will occur post-implementation when the pandemic ceases. The Department is willing to meet all its legal obligations, including negotiating with unions representing VA employees, but must also focus on providing care to our Veterans while protecting the safety and security of our facilities and the health of all in them.



- Issued guidance memorandum authorizing waiver of the biweekly pay limitation on premium pay for workers performing duties in response to COVID-19, permitting overtime and premium pay for eligible workers up to the annual limitation.
- OPM signed dual-compensation waiver to allow hiring of reemployed annuitants (i.e. retired employees) during COVID-19 by streamlining current delegations of authority for waiver of salary offset
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP): Prepared to increase scope of the EAP contract with FOH for COVID-19 counselling if needed.
- VA announced the policy change that allows for a dual compensation waiver for retired annuitants (retired VA employees) to be hired back to VA to meet the increased need of healthcare workers during COVID-19
- VA working with OPM to expedite blanket requests from VA to exceed the limits on recruitment, relocation, and retention incentives for Title 5 employees to help provide necessary staff
- Coordinated with DOD to identify approximately 8581 employees who are reserve/guard members and 669 are currently activated – 122 nurses and 24 doctors included in this number.
- Internal bulletin being drafted to implement new OPM guidance on flexible on-boarding this coming pay period and as needed during COVID to minimize physical proximity (such as the oath of office, the form I-9, fingerprinting, orientation, physical examinations, drug testing).
- Submitted to OPM: (1) request for dual comp waiver to cover 2210 (IT Specialists) series occupations, and (2) direct hire authority for VBA positions-- Veteran Service Representative, Rating Veterans Service Representative, and Legal Administrative Specialist.
- Guidance sent to HR offices of a temporary postponement of pre-employment applicant drug testing for testing designated positions (TDP) for up to 180 days.
- Authority to Approve Weather & Safety Leave for Employees
- Guidance for Elective Gastroenterology and Hepatology Procedures – COVID-19
- Guidance for VHA Eye Care Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- OCHCO Bulletin – Temporary Authorization to Delay Pre-Placement and Recurring Physical Exams
- Guidance for VHA Emergency Child Care Center Operations
- Dual Compensation Waiver Guidance for VHA
- Guidance on Safeguards for Military Environmental Registry Exams to Protect Veterans
- Guidance on Patient Specimen Shipments - UPS shipping
- Guidance on Preparedness for Mechanical Ventilation of COVID-19 patients during Pandemic
- Examining with OPM on a waiver or use of existing interchange agreements to detail excepted to competitive positions
- Collaborating with DOL and DHS/USCIS on a waiver of labor market review for non-citizens.
- Collaborating with the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association to let that community participate in helping VA fill its openings.
- VA send new (coordinated) guidance to the field on MISSION Act considerations (3/27/20).
- VA released the VHA COVID-19 Response Plan which provides guidance to the field. The operations plan includes strategies to address many COVID-19 cases to include alternative sites of care for Veterans with COVID-19. (3/27/20)
- VA Veterans Health Administration sent the following guidance to the field (3/27/2020)
  - Delegation of Authority – Group Recruitment and Retention Incentives for Title 38 Employees
  - Recruitment, Hiring and Organizational Changes During COVID-19
  - COVID-19 VHACO Clinician Request
  - Postponement of Long-Term Care Surveys

- Establishment of New Hire Processing Timeline
  - Office of Nursing Services Recruitment – Retired Annuitants and Travel Nurse Corps
- Recommending OPM delay Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) by 3 months. VA is considering delay of VA's annual All Employee Survey (AES) to September.
- OPM approved direct hire authority for the following VBA positions: Veterans Service Representative; Rating Veterans Service Representative; Legal Administrative Specialist.
- Modifying Bulletin on waiving physical examinations during COVID-19 to address stress on Employee Occupational Health (EOH) offices who are focused on COVID-19 screening.
- Working modifications to HRSmart to support mass hiring to support deployable medical personnel. (3/29/2020)
- Submitting request to OPM for broad authority to approve Special Contribution Awards (SCA) above the \$10K agency limit; drafting changes to current policy (VAH 5017) to delegate from SECVA to EIC authority to approve SCAs up to \$10K.
- Notified HR offices on COVID-19 Excepted Service Hiring Authority for Schedule A approved by OPM. this allows us to quickly hire any Title 5 positions that are in direct response COVID-19. VA may use this to fill positions on a temporary basis for up to one year as needed in response to, or as a result of COVID-19. (3/30/2020)
- OPM sending VA job opportunities to over 1M retirees.
- VA All Employee Survey postponed until September 2020.
- Notified Human Resources (HR) offices of the Federal employee leave provisions under the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) and the requirement to post the Families First Coronavirus Response Act Notice at VA facilities.
- In accordance with OMB and VA COVID-19 guidance, National Diversity Internship Program (NDIP) FY 20 summer session has been cancelled.
- VHA New Guidance to the field (3/31/2020):
  - Leveraging Capacity to Support Surges in Demand for COVID-19
  - Credentialing and Privileging COVID-19 (Reduced credentialing process for providers in order to expedite onboarding of critical medical staff)
  - Resilience Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (RRTP) Hardening Guidance (Details guidance on efforts to protect staff and patients in our Domiciliary Units)
  - Supplemental Information - Radiology and Nuclear Scheduling and Orders Management During the COVID-19 Pandemic
  - Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance for Urgent and Emergent Surgical Procedures
  - Guidance on Access Standards in response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updated (coordinated with OMB)
- VA OGC advised that the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has the authority during the COVID-19 global pandemic emergency to procure lodging for employees working at their local worksite (e.g., if staff have a need to stay away from their homes/family members and continue to work (e.g. Emergency Department physicians), or a need to stay close by for faster response time, if VHA documents in writing why it has concluded that this event at all or some facilities involves imminent danger to human life and why paying for employee meals and lodging is necessary to combat that imminent danger.
- Assistant Secretary HRA/OSP and Assistant Secretary OIT co-signed a memorandum dated March 31 outlining temporary procedures for personnel security vetting and appointment of new employees and alternative PIV credentials for eligible users during Coronavirus 2019 National Emergency; this guidance implements direction issued to executive departments and agencies from the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Personnel Management.

- Provided guidance on March 26 to field claims processors and the public on good cause for extending claims filing deadlines based on COVID-19. (4/1/2020)
- VHA Guidance Issued to the Field: (4/1/2020)
  - COVID-19 Definitions of Bed Categories
  - Suspension of Registered Nurse Transition to Practice Residency Program
  - COVID - Clinical Resource Hub Guidance
  - Guidance for the Hiring Compensation and Utilization of Alternate Nurse and Unlicensed Assistive Personnel
  - COVID-19 - Process for Cancellation of Non-urgent Operating Room Procedures.
  - Specifically, under existing VA regulations, if the time limits within which claimants or beneficiaries are required to act in order to perfect a claim, file an appeal, or challenge an adverse VA decision expired, the time may be extended for “good cause” shown.
  - Accordingly, claimants impacted by COVID-19 may request an extension for filing based on good cause. VBA regional office claims processors will grant the extension request, provided the time limit in question expired on or after March 13, 2020.
- Notified HR offices of the Federal employee leave provisions under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the requirement to post the Families First Coronavirus Response Act notice at VA facilities. This provides up to two weeks (up to 80 hours) of emergency paid sick leave to all federal civil service employees if they are unable to work (or telework) under specified circumstances related to COVID-19 – unless they are in an exempted category.
- Direct Hire Authority allowed by OPM for certain additional positions in NCA and VHA.
- OPM has authorized VA Direct Hire Authority for one year for the following positions at all grade levels nationwide for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency: Industrial Hygienist, GS-0690 Plumber, WG-4206 Maintenance Worker, WG-4749 Supervisory Engineer, GS-0801 Specialty Engineer, GS-0800 Laborer, WG-3502 Cook, WG-7404 Cemetery Caretaker, WG-4754. OPM has also authorized DHA for the following occupation and at this specific grade level: Human Resources Specialist, GS-0201-12.
- **VHA Guidance to the field:**
  - Changes to In-Person Identity Verification for the My HealtheVet Website
  - COVID-19 Bed Expansion Planning Signed
  - Move! Weight Management Program Guidance for COVID-19 Pandemic Response
  - EIC Memorandum Authorization to pay for Lodging and Meals
  - Contracted Outpatient Sites of Care COVID-19 Virtual Care Information and Updates
- Developing policy on the ability of VA law enforcement personnel, with proper notice, to inspect the personal effects of employees exiting VA healthcare facilities in order to prevent the theft of personal protective equipment needed to protect health care workers during the on-going public health emergency. This is becoming an issue during the Pandemic. (4/4/2020)
- VA signed a memorandum regarding the Child Care Subsidy Program that has temporarily expanded the total family income ceiling from \$89,999 to the maximum limit of \$144,000 for support during the COVID-19 crisis; allows eligible employees to seek reimbursement on some child-care costs. (4/6/2020)
- Veterans Health Administration guidance sent to field: (4/6/2020)
  - Grade and Pay Determinations for Nurses/Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) During COVID-19
  - Homeless Program Office (HPO) Guidance on Face to Face Visits
  - On-Hand Inventory Reporting Requirements for Critical Care and Coronavirus Drugs
  - Update: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Facemask and N95 Respirator Use

- Tip Sheet for Caregivers During COVID-19
- VHA COVID 19 Priorities During Transition to VA's New EHRM
- COVID-19 Employee Deployment - Special Contribution Award Guidance
- VA Public Health, Coronavirus website to provide Veterans & Staff guidance and information now active. Website visited 191,348 times with 172,253 unique visits (4/6/2020)
- Published policy revision updates to VA Handbook 5005 to remove the requirement for Professional Standards Boards for the following occupations listed in 38 U.S.C. § 7401 (3), which will reduce the time to hire for these positions by streamlining the process: physical therapy assistant; occupational therapy assistant; marriage family therapist; therapeutic radiologic technologist; kinesiotherapist; orthotist and prosthetist; medical records administration; blind rehabilitation specialist; blind rehabilitation outpatient specialist; licensed professional mental health counselor, prosthetic representative; nuclear medicine technologist; occupational therapist; physical therapist; dietitian and nutritionist; medical records technician; and therapeutic medical physicist. (4/7/2020)
- VA has decided to defer the Leadership VA (LVA) FY20 Class until FY21 and increase the size from 80 to 100 to make up for some of the leadership development throughput lost from postponing the current cohort. (4/7/2020)
- Veterans Health Administration Guidance to the Field: (4/7/2020)

#### COVID-19 VHA Guidance for Tuberculosis Testing of New Employees

- Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Compliance Inspection During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Accreditation Contract Delayed
- 2020 US Census Participation for Veterans in VA Residential Settings
- Continuity in Mental Health Services and Suicide Prevention Activities During COVID-19
- COVID-19 Temporary/Expedited Appointment Credentialing Process
- Release of Updated Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and New FY 2021 Basic and Prevailing State Home Per Diem Rates for State Veteran Homes
- Focused Professional Practice Evaluation and Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation Process during Presidential Declared State of Emergency – COVID-19
- Guidance on Anticoagulation Use and Monitoring for Veterans Health Administration Anticoagulation Programs During VHA's COVID-19 Emergency Response
- Contact Center Script and Screening (COVID-19) Updated
- VA received approval from OPM to waive the salary off-set for 2210 (Grades 07-15) and 340 series (Grades 12-14) positions. (4/11/2020)
- VA has issued guidance that starting immediately all CLC Staff and Veterans will be tested for COVID-19. CLCs are VA's nursing homes and care for particularly vulnerable Veterans. (4/11/2020)
- OPM approved VA's request for direct hire authority for the following additional 11 positions at all grade levels on a nationwide basis to support COVID-19. The approval begins today and is for one year: personnel security specialist; program support assistant; cemetery representative; health systems specialist; construction control representative; electronics industrial control mechanic; painter; equipment servicer; air conditioning equipment operator; equipment operator; laundry worker. (4/13/2020)
- Notified HR offices of flexibilities to defer random drug testing in certain conditions due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Establishes limited conditions in which a facility director may approve a deferral of a random drug test for an employee occupying a testing designated position. (4/13/2020)
- Revised Guidance on new hire applicant drug testing: April 17 revised bulletin issued updating prior guidance regarding how long an applicant drug test may be postponed; prior bulletin issued on March 25, 2020 advised that due to COVID-19, applicant testing could be postponed for up to 180



days after the applicant's entrance on duty in order for VA to meet emergency hiring needs. The revised bulletin includes the following statement: "It is the responsibility of the HR office to schedule the drug test as soon as practicable, but no later than 90 calendar days from the date of appointment." (4/19/2020)

- VA received approval from OPM on its request to waive the 25 percent limit on recruitment, relocation, and individual retention incentives, and the 10 percent limit on group retention incentives for certain occupations that are responding to workload surges due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). (4/20/2020)
- Provided notices to the field to remind all employees of the services that the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offers to them and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic (guidance was pre-cleared through OMB/OPM). (4/22/2020)
- Provided guidance of required steps for expediting onboarding for new VA hires. Steps have been streamlined to meet urgent staffing needs created by COVID-19 (guidance was pre-cleared through OMB/OPM). (4/22/2020)
- The Secretary signed a Delegation of Authority (April 23) that allows VA Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Other Key Officials at equivalent level of authority, the authority to exclude an employee, who is a health care provider or emergency responder, from application of the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act, Division E and the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act Division C of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). Accompanying guidance (that was vetted by OMB) was issued to the field as well via a Chief Human Capital Officer Bulletin. (4/23/2020)
- VA launched a COVID-19 chatbot on VA.gov this week. The chatbot helps answer veterans' questions about COVID-19 and direct them to available VA resources (4/23/2020)
- SECVA signed a delegation of authority VA Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Other Key Officials, the authority to waive certain limitations on pay for work done in support of the response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The following pay limits are listed in the guidance as covered: basic pay, nurse executive and pharmacist executive special pay, aggregate pay, annual pay, premium pay, and incentives and awards. (4/27/2020)
- On May 12, 2020, VA issued a bulletin (cleared through OMB) that notified HR offices of a temporary authorization to extend the grace period to obtain licenses for currently unlicensed or uncertified GS-9/11 Social Workers (SW) and GS-9 Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT). Due to COVID-19, many state licensing boards, and professional testing centers, have limited operational capacity or have closed entirely. This exception will remain 90 days after the COVID-19 national emergency has been lifted or 90 days after a testing center or resumption of normal operations, whichever is first. (5/13/2020)
- OPM approved additional direct hire authority for the following position at all grade levels on a nationwide basis to support COVID-19: Personnel Security Assistant (GS-0086). The authority is effective immediately and is for one year. (5/20/2020)
- VA Notified HR offices of updated information on various leave options that may be utilized by employees during COVID-19. The bulletin clarifies the conditions in which telework, weather and safety leave, emergency paid sick leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA), paid leave under the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act (EFMLEA), and leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA leave) may be authorized. (5/20/2020)
- VA sent version 6 of COVID-19 FAQs adding several new HR topics. The table of changes also provides a quick reference to other updates made throughout the document on the following topics including: Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), Pre-Placement Examinations,



Onboarding, PIV and Background Investigations, Employee Relations, Telework and Reasonable Accommodation, Return to Work. (5/20/2020)

### **COVID Response (VHA)**

- Within a day of the first confirmed US case, VA began planning for COVID-19 by establishing screening and triage, isolation and quarantine, and infection control strategy and plans.
- Activated Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) to Level 1 on January 20, 2020 and it remains activated.
- Daily crisis action team meetings at 3pm to discuss updates and remain in sync internally and with other federal guidance. (3/9/2020)
- Screening points established at every major VHA Healthcare Facility (170 hospitals that serve nearly 9 million veterans across the country. (3/10/20)
- Limited admissions to Spinal Cord Injury Units - 24 major centers; 24,000 Veterans. (3/10/20)
- Restricted admission to VA Community Living Centers (CLC) (134 nationwide nursing homes supporting 41,000 Veterans. (3/10/20)
- Submitted Task Order to HHS to receive an additional 250K masks in Martinsburg; 1.5M masks at the SDC in Hines, IL
- VA is experiencing a reduction in surgical case load due to delaying non-emergent care; down from 1,900 per day to 1,300 per day. Additionally, there has been a 5% drop in ER visits; increased bed capacity by 1/3 across the VA. (3/16/20)
- VA will receive 20,000 testing swabs. (3/23/20)
- Packaged 50,000 masks today for shipment to Denver and Brooklyn. (3/23/2020)
- Future deployment of the Mobile Vet Center to New Orleans, LA will start week of 23 Mar 2020. VA reviewing locations for additional deployments. VA to set up Vet Center Community Access Point to provide direct counseling to Veterans receiving treatment through the HHS location.
- Working to purchase facepiece elastomeric respirators based on CDC Guidance for managing COVID-19 patients; It is recommended that elastomeric respirators be used in order to conserve Surgical 95 and N95 filtering facepieces for high risk procedures that require a sterile field. (3/24/2020)
- Converting all ICU beds to negative airflow beds with a goal of reengineering by 3/30/20
- VA experiencing a high reduction (20%) in urgent care utilization showing Veterans are heeding advice to stay home. (3/24/2020)
- 20k hand sanitizer bottles have been received and will be deployed to the facilities. (3/24/2020)
- Davita and Fresenius Dialysis companies establishing joint cohorting sites for individual markets where COVID 19 dialysis patients can be treated in isolation.
- VA is no longer considering issuing a temporary waiver of the >90% bed hold requirement and the 75% Veteran bed requirement for State Veterans Homes to help ensure they remain solvent during this crisis. After further review, OGC advised that VA has no authority to waive the regulatory requirement. In addition, we were asked to review draft legislative language that would waive the above requirement. The State Homes have a hotline to Congress so we assume this is something they asked for and we will support.
- VA met with OIRA and OMB on MISSION Act considerations. VA is not pausing the MISSION Act. The department is ensuring the best medical interests of Veterans are met by adhering to the law in a manner that takes into account whether referrals for community care are clinically appropriate during the COVID-19 outbreak.

- Manila, Philippines Embassy will close in the next two weeks, in which case our VA clinic will close. Eight employees will be returned to the US (1 VHA and 7 VBA) and this will impact 6,000 veterans who receive care from that clinic.
- Activating enhanced Tele-ICU hub
- To support volunteerism, VHA is authorizing Special Contribution Awards up to the limit and asking OPM for authority to go above \$10,000 but under \$25,000 where needed and also making an exception to policy (VA Directive 5007) to allow per regulation recruitment, relocation and retention bonuses for any appointment at least 6 months in duration.
- Received shipment of N-95 masks, swabs and test kits for distribution (3/27/2020)
- Currently supporting approximately 2,500 concurrent telehealth appointments, with a goal of 10,000 concurrent appointments. (3/27/2020)
- With support from our Center for Strategic Partnerships, Office of Research and Development is establishing agreements with two commercial Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) that has allowed four of our medical centers to join in ongoing COVID-19 clinical trials and positions us to be ready for any future trials using these IRBs. VA opened trials in Palo Alto, Atlanta, New Orleans and Denver, where VA is seeing a surge of COVID patients.
- Partnering with Amazon, to purchase 500 tablets to enable access for Veterans, families and caregivers via VHA Telehealth Service to help ensure medical access and reduce possible exposure estimated launch. (3/30/2020)
- Assisting Homeless Program on development of Assessment and Recovery Center.
- Since the pandemic first started impacting the U.S (as of 3/5), approximately 1,626 families have postponed scheduled services citing COVID-19 concerns.
- VA working an Agreement with Reliance for the use of Advarra as the commercial IRB of record for a COVID-19 study using Gilead's Remdesvir at the Palo Alto VA Medical Center.
- VA has increased telehealth capacity by 15% to 11,000 max concurrent user call capacity.
- Medical Centers are experiencing serious PPE shortage. Several sites doing 3D printing, but it is not enough. Soon, PPE will be rationed; one surgical mask issued per week, one N95 per day. VISN 6 began mask sterilization with Berrett – 2400 mask in a 24-hour period. (4/4/2020)
- 2 Medical Centers have a greater than 70% occupancy of Med/Surg beds with COVID patients: Bronx, NY (86% occupancy) and Boston, MA (72%). (4/11/2020)
- On April 10<sup>th</sup> President Trump signed the "VA Tele-Hearing Modernization Act"
- Massachusetts Chelsea Soldiers' Home (Non-VA Facility) (4/12/2020)
  - 7 veteran resident deaths
  - 22 veteran residents who have tested positive
  - 29 staff tested positive
  - VA Boston has accepted patients for care- total count pending
- VHA is in the process of testing all Community Living Center veterans and staff and should have this complete next week. Approximately 7000 veterans live in our CLCs across the nation. (4/16/2020)
- VA is continuing an aggressive expansion of our Tele-ICU capabilities. Yesterday, VA completed the Fayetteville and Salisbury VA Medical Centers. Today we are working on Hampton and San Juan. 51 total sites for network configuration have been completed to date. (5/13/2020)
- VA recorded a peak number of minutes for telehealth visits in a single day at over 2 million; pre-COVID averages were 300,000 minutes per day (5/13/2020)
- VA kicked off its new COVID-19 Joint Data and Analytic Fusion Cell Integrated Project Team (IPT), which will conduct analytics to fill current gaps in COVID-19 understanding. (5/14/2020)
- DoD is supporting VA via MilAir use to transport medical personnel from Reno, Nevada to Newark, New Jersey due to lack of availability of commercial flights (5/17/2020)

- VA expanded network capacity for telehealth by launching Care2 Cloud. Supported 1,652 calls on May 27, the highest peak concurrent calls for Care2 Cloud to date. This is an increase of 71% in one week.
- This month, May 1 through May 25, VA Video Connect has supported record 221,427 unique Veterans (entire month total for February: 29,683; March 102,667; April 218,905)

### **COVID Response (BVA/VBA)**

- All VA Regional Benefit Offices (ROs) are closed to the public. Benefits are still being processed virtually.
- Insurance services extended premium payment grace periods; reinstatement deadlines; and Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI) application deadlines. (3/17/20)
- Board of Veterans Appeals suspended all travel board, video, and central office hearings and is prepared to provide virtual hearings where possible if Veterans and the Representative are willing and have the necessary equipment. (3/17/20)
- VA's Loan Guaranty Service issued program guidance for VA's Real Estate Owned and Portfolio Servicing Contract (RPSC) contractor, placing a moratorium on evictions for VA-owned properties for 60 days due to COVID-19.
- VA's Debt Management Center, through coordination with the Veterans Benefits Administration and Veterans Service Organizations, implemented a 60-day COVID-19 debt relief plan to provide temporary financial relief in accordance with Veterans' request.
- Notified GI Bill Beneficiaries and school officials through email and social media. If schools change modality of training to online classes for the current term, VA will continue to pay benefit payments.
- On Saturday, March 21, 2020, the President signed into law S. 3503, which clarifies how the Department of Veterans Affairs should treat in-person courses of study that convert to distance learning formats due to health-related situations and other emergencies.  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/bill-announcement-89/>
- Effective immediately, the Board of Veterans Appeals will advance on docket (AOD) appeals for Veterans diagnosed with COVID-19. (3/24/2020)
- The Board of Veterans Appeals will accept AMA Notices of Disagreement (NOD) with a typed signature in lieu of a wet signature. (3/24/2020)
- Effective COB March 24, 2020 the National Personnel Records Center will be closing its facility in accordance with local St. Louis municipal guidance. Critical VA personnel will remain behind to continue to process priority records requests.
- A total of 631 Transition Assistance events have been cancelled to date due to installation restrictions. VBA is offering these transition related courses virtually (via eLearning) to all Servicemembers and their families.
- Issued joint guidance with Pension & Fiduciary Service and Appeals Management Office that the COVID-19 pandemic qualifies as "good cause" for granting extension requests. Specifically, if a claimant requests an extension to file forms or documents because the COVID-19 pandemic affected their ability to meet such deadlines, VBA will grant the requested extension, provided the time period expired on or after March 13, 2020 (the date the President issued a national emergency).
- Coordinated with Department of Treasury to suspend the collection of all debt owed to VA until May 31, 2020 for any Veterans seeking debt assistance due to COVID-19. This includes suspending referrals to the Treasury Offset (TOP) and Cross Servicing (CS) processes.

- VA announced today a number of actions to provide Veterans with financial, benefits and claims help amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial relief actions include the following until further notice: (4/3/2020)
- As of April 3, VBA has temporarily suspended all in-person appointments provided by VBA's contract examination vendors, where the Veteran physically reports to the medical provider's office. The contract exam vendors will continue to complete as many examinations as possible using virtual means that do not involve an in-person examination, including tele-exams and ACE. For some disabilities, in-person examinations are required and cannot be completed through an alternate method. (4/6/2020)
  - Suspending all actions on Veteran debts under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department.
  - Suspending collection action or extending repayment terms on preexisting VA debts, as the Veteran prefers.
  - For Veterans who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and need immediate action on their appeals, as opposed to a filing extension, the Board of Veterans' Appeals will Advance their appeal on Docket (AOD). Click here to find out how to file for AOD and what documentation is required.
- Veterans Group Life Insurance: Prudential has extended grace periods by 90-days for premium payments and reinstatements, including the time allowed to submit the Attending Physician Statement (APS) required for some medical underwriting applications.
- Boston Regional Benefits Office – Implemented two-week suspension of local mail processing effective April 7, 2020, ending April 21, 2020 during the anticipated peak in COVID-19 infections in the Boston community. Employees will not be authorized to access any of the three Boston, Manchester, White River Junction (BMW) facilities without prior approval as determined by the Director or Assistant Director on a case-by-case basis. (4/7/2020)
- VA published a circular on Loan Guaranty Service to inform the public of changes due to CARES Act which requires a moratorium on foreclosures of Federally backed mortgage loans and a forbearance period for payments on such loans for borrowers who are experiencing a financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the COVID-19 emergency. (4/9/2020)
- Since the CARES act passed VA has worked with Dept. of Treasury on a solution to ensure that Veterans and Survivors who do not file tax returns and rely solely on VA benefits for income still receive stimulus checks via the CARES Act. (4/16/2020)
  - VA is securely providing beneficiary data to the IRS to ensure that no action will be required of Compensation and Pension benefit payment recipients or surviving family members receiving survivors benefits to receive their 'Economic Impact Payment' (EIP) if they do not file an annual tax return.
  - The IRS has also set up a website portal for Economic Impact Payments (EIP) if veterans, survivors or other non-filers wish to submit their information that way.
  - VA will notify press, stakeholders and Congress of these actions over the coming days.
  - This effort is complete
- On April 20, 2020, published a notice in the Federal Register which provides that, for the purpose of determining entitlement to benefits, any correspondence that is received by VA from any claimant during the period March 1, 2020 through 60 calendar days from the date the President ends the national state of emergency, that contains claims, information, or evidence, will be considered received on the date of postmark. (4/20/2020)
- On April 28, 2020, POTUS signed House Bill 6322, or Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, into Public Law 116-140. This new law gives VA additional authorities to continue GI Bill payments for the period beginning on March 1, 2020 and ending on December 21, 2020. VA is currently working to implement the changes: (5/1/2020)



- continue payments to students participating in the Work Study Program who are furloughed or have to stop working.
- continue to pay benefits for up to 4 weeks to GI Bill students whose classes are suspended, even if school is still open.
- restoration of entitlement for GI Bill students who lose credit due to school closure or schools' suspension of training.
- extend the delimiting date for Montgomery GI Bill and Post-9/11 G Bill students if they are unable to attend training due to COVID-19.
- Based on VA's collaboration with IRS and Treasury, approximately 396K Veterans and survivors will receive nearly \$475 million in economic impact payments this week. VA is still working to enact solutions to ensure that Veterans who live in a U.S. Territory, have a fiduciary or have a foreign address are able to receive an Economic Impact Payment. (5/12/2020)
- VBA will resume in-person medical disability examinations for its compensation and pension programs within the areas covered by the 20 Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Lead Sites identified in its phased reopening plan. VBA examination vendors will implement operation plans using current CDC guidelines for clinical sanitation and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use. In-person examinations will only be scheduled with the consent of the Veteran, and VBA will hold a Veteran's benefit claim for later exam scheduling and a decision if consent is withheld out of concern for exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

## **COVID Response NCA**

- Effective Monday, March 23, 2020, committal services and the rendering of military funeral honors will not be conducted until further notice at VA national cemeteries. Immediate family members (limited to no more than 10 individuals) of the deceased may witness the interment if requested. Currently, approximately 1174 families have postponed scheduled services citing COVID-19 concerns.
- In consultation with DoD, NCA has discontinued disinterment efforts with the Defense POW/MIA Accountability Agency (DoD) at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) effective immediately and until further notice in order to focus NCA resources on essential burial operations.
- Certain VA national cemeteries, located on active military installations, are being impacted by changes in base access (Fort Richardson, AK; Leavenworth, KS). Due to a change in base operating status, the general public is restricted from accessing the cemetery located on the base. NCA has coordinated with base authorities to ensure funeral homes are able to access the cemetery so direct casket/cremation interment operations are still available (without the option to "witness". (3/27/2020)
- Starting Thursday, April 9, 2020, NCA will no longer provide the option for families to witness interments at Calverton National Cemetery to help improve workload efficiency and increase the capacity of interment operations at this cemetery, which is located in the NYC epicenter. This change is being communicated to funeral homes in NY and families with interments scheduled on this date and beyond.
- National Cemetery Administration: Effective, Wednesday, April 15, 2020, witnessing family members will now be asked to view the interment from their cars or the road very near their cars. This change will further promote social distancing at national cemeteries and will be communicated to the funeral home community via Gov Delivery; online and to the Hill via OCLA. Families may



continue to visit the gravesite in the days following the interment consistent with CDC guidelines and local travel restrictions. (4/13/2020)

### **Emergency Management/Fourth Mission**

- CAO and VA's Director of Operations and Emergency Management communicated with HHS to ensure VA's Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needs are prioritized. HHS has agreed to release a stop gap quantity of N95 protective masks to VA this week. (March 16, 2020)
- Deployed 16 Nursing Assistants to assist with screening of AMCITs repatriated (all have been demobilized)
- Deployed a Liaison Officer to the HHS Secretary's Operations Center (SOC) to assist with response coordination.
- Conducted analysis of VA Medical facilities contingency data to identify locations for potential COVID-19 dedicated facilities.
- VHA has detailed four personnel to FEMA HQ to support the operations: Dr. John Areno, VISN16 Chief Medical Officer & Pulmonary/Critical Care physician; Mary Mather, IPEC/National Program Manager for LTC; Andrew Centineo, PL&O; Michael Forgy, OEM.
- All Area Emergency Managers are in place at each FEMA region.
- VA is concerned with the national ventilator shortage and is working with FEMA Task Force (TF) to find other sources of supply. VA will receive 25 ventilators this week and an additional 25 next week.
- VA activating DEMPS for New Orleans (160 Clinical Staff) and New York (50 Nurses). We will begin moving people there starting today.
- Collaborating with Peace Corps who has 7,000 volunteers ready to work (due to evacuations); working with them on open position advertising and employment opportunities to support VA's mission during this national emergency and beyond.
- VA identified a potential shortage of 1K nurses in certain hotspots of the nation and is working a combination of solutions to include:
  - Rehire of retired nurses
  - Hire of new employees through special hiring authorities and waivers
  - DEMPS moves from other non-stressed areas in VA
- Acting PDUSH met with NYC Emergency Management Commissioner to discuss need for HHS tasking, sharing of data, and the process for referral of COVID positive and negative patients, preferably Veterans, to be admitted at VA facilities.
- Area Emergency Managers supporting repatriation centers:
  - Travis and Lackland demobilizing today (3/26/2020)
  - Dobbins and Miramar will demobilize tomorrow (3/27/2020)
- Growing the roster for Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System (DEMPS) volunteers for deployment to New York City and New Orleans.
- NY Harbor VA Hospital received four civilian patients from Elmhurst Hospital. One was in respiratory failure and admitted to the ICU. Information about the other three is pending. (3/29/2020)
  - Four to five additional patients are expected overnight from Elmhurst Hospital.
  - The five patients that were to be transferred from Lincoln Hospital have not arrived yet.
- Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System Deployments (Various Specialties) (4/1/2020)
  - (27) Personnel being processed for deployment.
  - (14) Personnel deployed/on the ground at various locations.
  - (2) VISNS requested personnel deployed through DEMPS

- JAVITS NY Medical Station and USNS Comfort Transfer guidance received
- Mobile Vet Center Deployment Update (4/4/2020)
  - New York, NY (Deployment Started)  
Operation Gotham at the Javits Center in New York City began to receive patients on the afternoon of 31 March 2020. Vet Center staff connected with 64 Service members over the course of the deployment. Contact has been made with 2 civilians.
  - Pasadena, CA (Deployment Started)  
Operation started on 1 April 2020 and ended April 3. Minimal contact will seek a better location.
  - Portland, OR (Deployment Started)  
Operation started on 31 March 2020 and staff are located in a shopping center in Portland, OR. Vet Center staff connected with 40 Veterans, Service members and families over the course of the deployment. Contact has been made with 12 civilians
  - Altoona, PA (Deployment Started)  
MVC stationed at VAMC to assist with screening. Veteran Outreach Program Specialist on site.
  - Dayton, OH (Under Development)  
Request Mobile Vet Center at Dayton Medical Center to assist with COVID screening, will begin Monday April 6
- Developing requirements for Morgue Expansion Capabilities. (4/4/20)
- Working to identify medical consumables/equipment for recently purchased Field ICU Unit. Location for deployment of Unit still under consideration. (4/4/20)
- VA sent a list of critical PPE supplies with requested quantities to RADM Polowczyk, Supply Chain Sub-Task Force Director for consideration and prioritization. (4/5/20)
- Developing language for HHS sub-task on FEMA Mission Assignment to VHA for \$1.5M in pharmaceutical support to Javits shelter in NYC.
- Mobile Vet Center (MVC) Update: (4/7/20)
  - Altoona, PA (Deployment Started). MVC stationed at VAMC to assist with COVID-19 screening. Veteran Outreach Program Specialist on site.
  - Dayton, OH (Deployment Under Development). Request for MVC stationed at VAMC to assist with COVID-19 screening.
  - New York, NY (Deployment Paused). Vet Center staff have connected with 99 service members over the course of the deployment. Contact has been made with 2 civilians
  - Pasadena, CA and Portland, OR deployments ended
- Identified a total of 20 tribal governments that have Emergency Declarations
- VA developing "live" map journal to model next VA "hot spots" for our healthcare system. (4/8/20)
- Continued development of plan on how VA might assist IHS and other tribal nations health systems. (4/10/20)
- Determining the need of resourcing second order of trailers for fatality management. (4/10/2020)
- Update on Mask sterilization efforts with Battelle: (4/10/20)
  - Sites either currently running or will be running within two weeks: Stoneybrook, NY; Brooklyn, NY; Plain City, OH; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Washington, DC
  - Planned future states: Connecticut, New Jersey, Indiana, Florida, Texas, Michigan
- DOD approved MilAir transport to send nurses from Maine and Washington State to New York City. The mission is underway. (4/26/20)
- VA is sending is sending at least 1 NP and 1 Nurse to the IHS Shiprock Clinic to assist with the Navajo COVID-19 crisis. (4/26/20)

- VA has an increased need for Oxygen concentrators and portable ventilators. FEMA is being prioritized over VA and these are becoming increasingly hard to obtain. Update: VA began discussions with manufacturers regarding these items today. The issue is that the vendors received 10 months' worth of demand in three weeks and it has depleted current inventory. Vendors have increased product lines and estimate mid-May before supply availability. (4/23/20)

## **Construction, Contracting and Supply Chain**

- VA's Financial Services Center established an Emergency Buyers sub-group of 13,000 Government Purchase Cardholders within VA's Amazon Business Account providing special access to select vendors for critically needed supplies in accordance with the Chief Acquisition Officer's COVID-19 supply chain efforts
- During the COVID-19 emergency, private sector entities have offered to donate equipment and supplies needed to protect personnel from contracting COVID-19. VA OGC worked a delegation of approval to VISN Directors to ensure efficient approval of donated gifts.
- Construction projects in Massachusetts, California, New York, Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico have been either stopped completely or activities severely curtailed by this national emergency and shelter in place orders.
- US Army Corps of Engineers will visit the former Denver medical facility to assess the building's viability for FEMA/HHS use.
- On March 24<sup>th</sup>, CAO reported to VA OIG a vendor in Louisiana who is offering medical supplies and equipment up to 1000% above average cost and likely does not meet FDA guidelines.
- VA working with various vendors for purchase of Chloroquine Phosphate and ventilators.
  - Use of the new Open Opportunities, a governmentwide platform offering professional development opportunities to current federal employees, as a central location for federal agencies to post details, microdetails, and/or temporary assignments.
- VA OGC partnered with the VA Voluntary Service to create a universal gift form for distribution within VA listing general departmental needs during the COVID-19 emergency. Each VAMC Director can solicit and accept the listed donations pursuant to VHA Directive 4721, VHA General Post Fund – Gifts and Donations. (3/27/20)
- On March 30<sup>th</sup>, the Denver Logistics Center (DLC) will receive a shipment of 500 iPads for the VA Video Connect (VVC) Community. These iPads are designed to allow "skype" type appointments between the Veteran patient and the Care Provider. The DLC will prepare the iPads for immediate shipment to fulfill backorders.
- Invocation of the Defense Production Act (DPA) resulted in confusion in the commercial sector as to how to prioritize orders, resulting in delays and cancellations on orders and deliveries to VA. Under the DPA, the FEMA Task Force, used its authority to divert materiel originally offered to VA for delivery to the SNS.
  - VA orders for masks, gowns, gloves, and PAPP have been cancelled by our vendors. This is high risk for not only our enterprise, but for the Administration as our hospitals will be without supplies starting late this week.
  - FEMA and HHS have been made aware; VA is awaiting resolution from them.
- \*Issue has since been resolved
- VA Acquisition Office is working with the VHA's Care in the Community Program Office to establish a Global Nurse Advice Line contract to support increased phone consults for Veteran care in support of Coronavirus.

- VA contracted with Battelle for use of their Critical Care Decontamination Systems (CCDS) to sanitize N95 masks for Brooklyn, Manhattan, and East Orange, NY medical centers. Great partnership with HHS and FDA led to the approval to reuse masks 20x after sanitization. (4/3/20)
- VA has administered more than 18,900 tests and has more than 3,000 additional tests on hand. (4/3/20)
- Contract awarded for Alternate Care Sites-Four (4) 125 bed, soft-sided, portable medical structure. Awaiting delivery and selection of sites. (4/3/20)
- Contract awarded for Mobile Field Hospital. Awaiting delivery and selection of site. (4/3/20)
- National Acquisition Center's (NAC) Service & Distribution Center is providing additional warehouse space for VHA ordered and FEMA provided PPE products; VHA to identify space required and delivery schedules. (4/6/20)
- VA was prepared to accept a donation of 1 million N-95 masks and other PPE from Salesforce. However, FEMA General Counsel determined that the donation was too large for VA to accept. Secretary Wilkie sent a formal letter to FEMA Administrator asking for authority to accept the donation OR purchase the materials directly. (4/9/20)
- VA awarded an \$8M urgent sole source contract to SDV Office Systems for 97 Tablo® Helodialysis Systems for treating patients with COVID-19 infection. The contractor will deliver as many units as possible before July 31, 2020. The need is particularly pressing for patients with end-stage kidney disease being treated with intermittent hemodialysis (HD). (4/10/20)
- VA request to POTUS for Advanced Payment Authority was approve and signed by POTUS. (4/11/20)
- VA completed a temporary delegation which will apply to the Federal Supply Schedule for Healthcare Staffing Services' ceiling price determination for field contracting officers to use. This delegation, which is available for use until July 1, 2020, will provide immediate nursing staff augmentation for our medical centers. (4/11/20)
- VA reported to OIG regarding a potential case of price gouging. DOJ issued a press release on April 10th concerning the arrest of Christopher Parris, who attempted to sell VA \$750 million of nonexistent masks and other PPE: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/georgia-man-arrested-attempting-defraud-department-veterans-affairs-multimillion-dollar-covid>
- VA has partnered with Facebook to provide more than 7,400 Facebook portal devices. The American Red Cross Military Veteran Caregiver Network will store and ship the devices to qualifying Veterans in pairs. Devices are available today (4/15/2020) for Veterans and their caregivers and families to reduce isolation, improve mental health, wellness, and social connectedness at home. (4/15/20)
- VA acquired the former Garland-Baylor, Scott & White hospital, April 3, to increase its capacity to care for Veterans and support the department's response to COVID-19. The 470,000 square foot facility was donated by Baylor, Scott & White and will eventually serve as an outpatient and specialty care clinic within the VA North Texas Health Care System. The hospital will be able to open Monday April 20. (4/17/20)
- VA National Acquisition Center FSS coordinated with National Association of State Procurement Officials (NAPSO) authorizing State and Local governments to procure Covid-19 support using FSS vendors/contracts. (4/17/20)
- The Strategic Acquisition Center awarded a purchase order for 5 million, 3-ply disposable medical masks (non-N95) valued at \$2.8M. The contract was signed on April 22, 2020. (4/23/2020)
- VA may now utilize the contract HHS funded through DLA to receive N95 mask decontamination and transportation services from Battelle without reimbursing HHS (no cost to supplemental funding). (4/24/20)

- On 5/4/20, the Strategic Acquisition Center awarded a contract to Hanes for 2.4M cloth masks valued at \$1.9M. This contract has ten optional Contract Line Item Number (CLINs) with the possibility to supply ten million additional masks. (5/5/20)
- On 5/1/20, the National Acquisition Center's Federal Supply Schedule Service (FSS) awarded a contract for COVID-19 testing to Eurofins Viracor. The vendor offers the following capacity: 10,000 daily COVID-19 testing to VA nationwide. (5/6/20)
- VA will be accepting a donation of 800,000 face shields from Apple. The shipment should arrive in the next two weeks. (5/6/20)
- VA successfully accepted 500,000 masks from the Republic of Korea (ROK) on 5/12/2020. This donation will help support our efforts to ensure Veterans and Employee safety as we continue to combat COVID-19. (5/12/2020)
- Strategic Acquisition Center (SAC) awarded a contract to M. Hidary and Company for 1M Level II Gowns valued at \$7.12M.
- VA's National Acquisition Center's (NAC) Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) Service awarded a new COVID-19 antibody test (SARS-CoV-2-SEROLOGY (COVID19) Antibody (IGG), Immunoassay) contract to Quest Diagnostics. This contract became effective May 13, 2020 and it has the capacity to perform 150,000 tests per night. (5/18/2020)



## Employees and Contractors COVID-19 Confirmed Positives

as of 2 June 2020, 1100 ET

Source: Administration / Staff Offices, VHA Health Operations Center

A/SO	Location	Facility	Total	Change
BVA	Washington, DC	VACO	2	-1
NCA	Long Island, NY	Long Island National Cemetery	1	
NCA	Riverside, CA	Riverside National Cemetery	1	
OGC	Las Vegas, NV	Pacific District at VAMC	1	
OIG	Los Angeles, CA	OIG	1	
OIT	Birmingham, AL	Birmingham VAMC	1	
OIT	Washington, DC	VACO – OIT/ITRM (1) VACO – AMO (1)	2	
OALC	Washington, DC	OALC/VACO Contractor	1	
OM	Washington, DC	VACO – OM	1	
OPIA	Washington, DC	VACO – OPIA	1	
VBA	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta RO	1	
VBA	Buffalo, NY	Buffalo RO	1	
VBA	Cleveland, OH	Cleveland RO	1	
VBA	Columbia, SC	Columbia RO	1	
VBA	Jackson, MI	VBA Central Office*	1	
VBA	Milwaukee, WI	Milwaukee RO	1	
VBA	Montgomery, AL	Montgomery RO	0	-1
VBA	New York City, NY	New York RO	3	
VBA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia RO VBA Central Office*	2	
VBA	St. Louis, MO	St. Louis RO	1	
VBA	St. Paul, MN	St. Paul RO	2	
VBA	Washington, DC	NCR RO (1) VBA Central Office – OFO (1)	2	
VEO	Salt Lake City, UT	White House Veterans Line	3	
VEO	Shepherdstown, WV	White House Veterans Line	1	
VHA	Albuquerque, NM	Raymond G. Murphy VAMC	1	
VHA	Alexandria, LA	Alexandria HCS	7	+1
VHA	Amarillo, TX	Thomas E Creek VAMC	2	+1
VHA	Ann Arbor, MI	Ann Arbor HCS	2	
VHA	Asheville, NC	Charles George VAMC	1	+1
VHA	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta HCS	0	-1
VHA	Aurora, CO	Rocky Mountain Regional VAMC	2	-1
VHA	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore VAMC	32	+3
VHA	Bath, NY	Bath VAMC	2	
VHA	Battle Creek, MI	Battle Creek VAMC	3	-7
VHA	Bay Pines, FL	CW Bill Young VAMC	10	+2
VHA	Bedford, MA	Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial VAMC	7	-2
VHA	Birmingham, AL	Birmingham VAMC	28	+9
VHA	Boise, ID	Boise VAMC	2	
VHA	Boston, MA	Jamaica Plain VAMC	36	-5
VHA	Buffalo, NY	Buffalo VAMC	6	-1

## Employees and Contractors COVID-19 Confirmed Positives

as of 2 June 2020, 1100 ET

Source: Administration / Staff Offices, VHA Health Operations Center

VHA	Chicago, IL	Jesse Brown VAMC (10)(-1) Capt James A. Lovell VAMC (26)(+1) Edward Hines Jr VAMC (5)(+2)	41	+2
VHA	Chillicothe, OH	Chillicothe VAMC	1	
VHA	Cincinnati, OH	Cincinnati VAMC	2	-3
VHA	Cleveland, OH	Cleveland VAMC	5	-1
VHA	Coatesville, PA	Coatesville VAMC	11	+2
VHA	Columbia, SC	Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn VAMC	3	+1
VHA	Columbus, OH	Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center	1	
VHA	Dallas, TX	Dallas VAMC	65	+1
VHA	Dayton, OH	Dayton VAMC	4	
VHA	Des Moines, IA	VA Central Iowa Health Care System	5	
VHA	Detroit, MI	John D. Dingell VAMC	2	-1
VHA	Dublin, GA	Carl Vinson VAMC	2	
VHA	Durham, NC	Durham VA Health Care System	1	
VHA	East Orange, NJ	New Jersey HCS	53	+11
VHA	Fargo, ND	Fargo VAMC	7	+1
VHA	Fayetteville, NC	Fayetteville VAMC	3	+2
VHA	Gainesville, FL	Malcom Randall VA Medical Center	11	+4
VHA	Hampton, VA	Hampton VAMC	4	-1
VHA	Harlingen, TX	Harlingen VA Clinic	2	
VHA	Houston, TX	Michael E. DeBakey VAMC	5	
VHA	Iowa City, IA	Iowa City VAMC	1	
VHA	Jackson, MS	G.V. Sonny Montgomery VAMC	1	+1
VHA	Kansas City, MO	Kansas City VAMC	2	+1
VHA	Las Vegas, NV	Southern Nevada HCA	5	
VHA	Lexington, KY	Lexington VA Health Care System - Franklin R. Sousley Campus	2	+1
VHA	Little Rock, AR	Central Arkansas Health Care System	12	+1
VHA	Loma Linda, CA	Loma Linda HCS	7	
VHA	Long Beach, CA	Long Beach HCS	2	
VHA	Los Angeles, CA	Greater Los Angeles Health Care System	6	+1
VHA	Louisville, KY	Robley Rex VAMC	0	-1
VHA	Madison, WI	William S. Middleton VAMC	3	+1
VHA	Marion, IL	Marion VAMC	2	+2
VHA	Martinsburg, WV	Martinsburg VAMC	2	-1
VHA	Memphis, TN	Memphis VAMC	5	-1
VHA	Miami, FL	Miami VA HCS	4	-2
VHA	Milwaukee, WI	Milwaukee VAMC	4	
VHA	Minneapolis, MN	Minneapolis HCS	5	-1
VHA	Montgomery, AL	Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System (CAVHCS)- West Campus	6	-1

## Employees and Contractors COVID-19 Confirmed Positives

as of 2 June 2020, 1100 ET

Source: Administration / Staff Offices, VHA Health Operations Center

VHA	Montrose, NY	Hudson Valley HCS	3	-1
VHA	Nashville, TN	Tennessee Valley HCS	5	
VHA	New Orleans, LA	New Orleans VAMC	188	
VHA	New York City, NY	James J. Peters VAMC (101)(-1) NY Harbor HCS – Manhattan Campus (137)(+2) Northport VAMC (25)(+1)	263	+2
VHA	Northampton, MA	Central Western Massachusetts HCS	3	
VHA	Oklahoma City, OK	Oklahoma City HCS	4	
VHA	Omaha, NE	Nebraska Iowa HCS	17	
VHA	Orlando, FL	Orlando VA HCS	2	
VHA	Palo Alto, CA	Palo Alto VAMC	1	-2
VHA	Philadelphia, PA	Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VAMC	7	
VHA	Phoenix, AZ	Phoenix Health Care System	6	-1
VHA	Pittsburgh, PA	Pittsburgh VA Medical Center-University Drive	3	+2
VHA	Poplar Bluff, MO	John J. Pershing VAMC	2	+2
VHA	Portland, OR	Portland VAMC	24	-3
VHA	Reno, NV	VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System	11	-1
VHA	Richmond, VA	Hunter Holmes McGuire VAMC	7	+1
VHA	Roseburg, OR	Roseburg Health Care System	1	
VHA	Salem, VA	Salem VAMC	2	+1
VHA	Salisbury, NC	W. G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center	2	
VHA	Salt Lake City, UT	George E Wahlen VAMC	3	
VHA	San Antonio, TX	Audie L. Murphy VAMC	17	
VHA	San Diego, CA	San Diego VAMC	3	
VHA	San Francisco, CA	San Francisco Health Care System	4	
VHA	San Juan, PR	San Juan VAMC	6	
VHA	Seattle, WA	Puget Sound Health Care System	7	+1
VHA	Sheridan, WY	Sheridan VAMC	2	-2
VHA	Shreveport, LA	Overton Brooks VA Medical Center	16	-4
VHA	St. Cloud, MN	St. Cloud VAMC	1	+1
VHA	St. Louis, MO	St Louis HCS	5	
VHA	Syracuse, NY	Syracuse VAMC	13	+1
VHA	Tampa, FL	Tampa VAMC	1	
VHA	Temple, TX	Olin E. Teague VAMC	3	
VHA	Topeka, KS	Eastern Kansas Health Care System	1	
VHA	Tucson, AZ	Tucson VAMC	2	+1
VHA	Tuscaloosa, AL	Tuscaloosa VAMC	14	
VHA	Washington, DC	Washington DC VAMC	27	-5
VHA	West Palm Beach, FL	West Palm Beach VAMC	3	-1
VHA	Wilkes-Barre, PA	Wilkes-Barre VAMC	2	+1
VHA	Wilmington, DE	Wilmington VAMC	5	+1
		Total:	<b>1,156</b>	<b>+11</b>

## **Employees and Contractors COVID-19 Confirmed Positives**

as of 2 June 2020, 1100 ET

Source: Administration / Staff Offices, VHA Health Operations Center

Red numbers indicate recovered or released and return to duty.

\* Geographically separated employees

VBA Employees assigned to VBA Central Office.

HRA Employee works for HRA/ORM but lives in Salt Lake City, UT

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June 2, 2020

## Veteran Cases

Parent Facility (Prior Reporting)	Location (New Detail)	Total	VA Outpatient	VA Inpatient, ICU	VA Inpatient, CLC	VA Inpatient, Acute	Deceased Other	Deceased Inpatient	Convalescent
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>12,218</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>9,727</b>
<b>(402) Togus ME</b>	(402) Togus VA Medical Center	19	2	1				1	15
<b>(405) White River Junction VT</b>	(405) White River Junction VA Medical Center	10	1				1	1	7
<b>(436) Montana HCS (Fort Harrison MT)</b>	(436) Fort Harrison VA Medical Center	5					1		4
<b>(437) Fargo, ND (CACHE 5.0)</b>	(437) Fargo VA Medical Center	36	11			1	5	2	17
<b>(438) Sioux Falls SD (CACHE 5.0)</b>	(438) Royal C. Johnson Veterans' Memorial Hospital	50	5	1		1	2		41
<b>(442) Cheyenne WY</b>	(442) Cheyenne VA Medical Center	15							15
<b>(459) VA Pacific Islands HCS (Honolulu HI)</b>	(459) Spark M. Matsunaga Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	7							7
<b>(459) VA Pacific Islands HCS (Honolulu HI)</b>	(459GB) Hilo VA Clinic	1							1
<b>(460) Wilmington DE</b>	(460) Wilmington VA Medical Center	118	8				9	1	100
<b>(460) Wilmington DE</b>	(460HG) Cumberland County VA Clinic	1	1						
<b>(460) Wilmington DE</b>	(642) Corporal Michael J. Crescenzo Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	1	1						



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<b>(463) Alaska VAHSRO (Anchorage AK)</b>	(463) Anchorage VA Medical Center	10	2						8
<b>(501) New Mexico HCS (Albuquerque NM)</b>	(501) Raymond G. Murphy Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	49	5	1		1	4	3	35
<b>(502) Alexandria, LA</b>	(502) Alexandria VA Medical Center	43	2			1	4		36
<b>(503) Altoona, PA</b>	(503) James E. Van Zandt Veterans' Administration Medical Center	6							6
<b>(504) Amarillo HCS (Amarillo TX)</b>	(504) Thomas E. Creek Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	21	3						18
<b>(506) Ann Arbor, MI</b>	(506) Ann Arbor VA Medical Center	103	6	1		3	2	8	83
<b>(506) Ann Arbor, MI</b>	(506GA) Toledo VA Clinic	2	1						1
<b>(508) Atlanta, GA</b>	(508) Atlanta VA Medical Center	204	2			3	4	13	182
<b>(508) Atlanta, GA</b>	(508QF) Atlanta VA Clinic	1							1
<b>(509) Augusta, GA</b>	(509) Charlie Norwood Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	48	3	1		5		4	35
<b>(512) Maryland HCS (Baltimore MD)</b>	(512) Baltimore VA Medical Center	178	19	2		9	9	5	134
<b>(512) Maryland HCS (Baltimore MD)</b>	(512A5) Perry Point VA Medical Center	1							1
<b>(515) Battle Creek, MI</b>	(515) Battle Creek VA Medical Center	46	4				7		35
<b>(515) Battle Creek, MI</b>	(515BY) Wyoming VA Clinic	2							2
<b>(516) Bay Pines,FL</b>	(516) C.W. Bill Young Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	44	5	2			2		35
<b>(516) Bay Pines,FL</b>	(516BZ) Lee County VA Clinic	4	1						3

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(517) Beckley, WV	(517) Beckley VA Medical Center	1							1
(518) Bedford,MA		3							3
(518) Bedford,MA	(518) Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans' Hospital	148	1				3	28	116
(518) Bedford,MA	(518GA) Lynn VA Clinic	1	1						
(518) Bedford,MA	(518GE) Gloucester VA Clinic	1							1
(519) West Texas HCS (Big Spring TX)	(519) George H. O'Brien, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	9					1		8
(520) Biloxi, MS	(520) Biloxi VA Medical Center	17				1	1	1	14
(520) Biloxi, MS	(520GA) Mobile VA Clinic	3	1						2
(520) Biloxi, MS	(520GB) Panama City Beach VA Clinic	1	1						
(520) Biloxi, MS	(520GC) Eglin Air Force Base VA Clinic	1							1
(521) Birmingham, AL	(521) Birmingham VA Medical Center	58	12	2		3	2	6	33
(521) Birmingham, AL	(521GJ) Birmingham VA Clinic	1							1
(521) Birmingham, AL	(619) Central Alabama VA Medical Center-Montgomery	1							1
(523) Boston HCS (Boston)	(518) Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans' Hospital	1							1
(523) Boston HCS (Boston)	(523) Jamaica Plain VA Medical Center	161	7				25	5	124
(523) Boston HCS (Boston)	(523A4) West Roxbury VA Medical Center	101	4	1		2	4	18	72
(523) Boston HCS (Boston)	(523A5) Brockton VA Medical Center	76				2	1	6	67
(523) Boston HCS (Boston)	(523BY) Lowell VA Clinic	25	2						23
(523) Boston HCS (Boston)	(523BZ) Causeway VA Clinic	2							2
(523) Boston HCS (Boston)	(523GC) Quincy VA Clinic	1							1

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(523) Boston HCS (Boston)	(523GD) Plymouth VA Clinic	1							1
(523) Boston HCS (Boston)	(631BY) Springfield VA Clinic	1							1
(526) Bronx, NY	(526) James J. Peters Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	483	9	2		6	8	63	395
(526) Bronx, NY	(526GA) White Plains VA Clinic	2	1						1
(526) Bronx, NY	(526QA) Bronx VA Mobile Clinic	3							3
(528) Upstate New York HCS		3						1	2
(528) Upstate New York HCS	(528) Buffalo VA Medical Center	199	11			9	16	14	149
(528) Upstate New York HCS	(528A5) Canandaigua VA Medical Center	2							2
(528) Upstate New York HCS	(528A6) Bath VA Medical Center	5				1			4
(528) Upstate New York HCS	(528A7) Syracuse VA Medical Center	14	1	2				2	9
(528) Upstate New York HCS	(528A8) Samuel S. Stratton Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	39				2		7	30
(528) Upstate New York HCS	(528GE) Rochester Westfall VA Clinic	2	2						
(528) Upstate New York HCS	(528GQ) Lackawanna VA Clinic	1							1
(528) Upstate New York HCS	(528QC) Rochester Calkins VA Clinic	6	2						4
(529) Butler, PA	(529) Abie Abraham VA Clinic	12	2				3		7
(529) Butler, PA	(529GA) Michael A. Marzano Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic	1							1
(531) Boise, ID	(531) Boise VA Medical Center	11	2					1	8

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(534) Charleston, SC	(534) Ralph H. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	20		2					18
(534) Charleston, SC	(534GB) Myrtle Beach VA Clinic	1							1
(534) Charleston, SC	(534GF) Trident 1 VA Clinic	2	1						1
(534) Charleston, SC	(534QC) Charleston VA Clinic	1							1
(537) Chicago (Westside), IL		2							2
(537) Chicago (Westside), IL	(537) Jesse Brown Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	309	15	5	2	10	2	17	258
(537) Chicago (Westside), IL	(537BY) Adam Benjamin Jr., Veterans' Administration Outpatient Clinic	1	1						
(538) Chillicothe, OH	(538) Chillicothe VA Medical Center	11						1	10
(539) Cincinnati, OH	(539) Cincinnati VA Medical Center	55	4			1	1	1	48
(540) Clarksburg, WV	(540) Louis A. Johnson Veterans' Administration Medical Center	4							4
(541) Cleveland, OH		1						1	
(541) Cleveland, OH	(541) Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	225	16	2		5	27	3	172
(541) Cleveland, OH	(541BY) Canton VA Clinic	2							2
(541) Cleveland, OH	(541BZ) Youngstown VA Clinic	3							3
(541) Cleveland, OH	(541GD) David F. Winder Department of Veterans Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic	2							2
(541) Cleveland, OH	(541GF) Lake County VA Clinic	1	1						

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(541) Cleveland, OH	(541GG) Akron VA Clinic	1							1
(541) Cleveland, OH	(541GI) Warren VA Clinic	1							1
(541) Cleveland, OH	(541GK) Ravenna VA Clinic	1	1						
(541) Cleveland, OH	(541GL) Parma VA Clinic	3	1						2
(541) Cleveland, OH	(541QA) Summit County VA Clinic	1							1
(542) Coatesville, PA		1							1
(542) Coatesville, PA	(542) Coatesville VA Medical Center	66	10				10		46
(542) Coatesville, PA	(542GA) Delaware County VA Clinic	1							1
(544) Columbia, SC	(544) Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	127	1				5	4	117
(544) Columbia, SC	(544BZ) Greenville VA Clinic	8							8
(544) Columbia, SC	(544GC) Rock Hill VA Clinic	3	1						2
(544) Columbia, SC	(544GD) Anderson VA Clinic	2							2
(544) Columbia, SC	(544GF) Sumter VA Clinic	2							2
(544) Columbia, SC	(544GG) Spartanburg VA Clinic	1	1						
(546) Miami, FL	(546) Bruce W. Carter Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	133	22			8		6	97
(546) Miami, FL	(546BZ) William "Bill" Kling Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic	3							3
(546) Miami, FL	(546GD) Pembroke Pines VA Clinic	1							1
(548) West Palm Beach, FL	(548) West Palm Beach VA Medical Center	82	18	1		1	6	4	52
(548) West Palm Beach, FL	(548GB) Delray Beach VA Clinic	2	1						1
(548) West Palm Beach, FL	(548GD) Boca Raton VA Clinic	1							1



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(549) North Texas HCS (Dallas TX)	(549) Dallas VA Medical Center	89	4			6	2	5	72
(550) Illiana HCS (Danville IL)	(550) Danville VA Medical Center	7	1						6
(552) Dayton, OH	(552) Dayton VA Medical Center	24	3				2		19
(552) Dayton, OH	(552GA) Middletown VA Clinic	1	1						
(552) Dayton, OH	(552GC) Richmond VA Clinic	1							1
(553) Detroit, MI	(553) John D. Dingell Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	252	5	2	1	1	8	26	209
(553) Detroit, MI	(553BU) Detroit VA Domiciliary	3						1	2
(554) Eastern Colorado HCS (Denver CO)	(554) Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center	244	9			3	16	5	211
(554) Eastern Colorado HCS (Denver CO)	(554GE) PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic	11	2						9
(556) North Chicago, IL	(556) Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center	105	5	2		2	1	2	93
(557) Dublin, GA	(509) Charlie Norwood Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	1							1
(557) Dublin, GA	(557) Carl Vinson Veterans' Administration Medical Center	57	5			1			51
(558) Durham, NC	(558) Durham VA Medical Center	75	7	1		6	4	1	56
(558) Durham, NC	(558GA) Greenville VA Clinic	7	2				1		4
(558) Durham, NC	(558GB) Raleigh VA Clinic	3	1						2
(561) New Jersey HCS (East Orange)		2				1			1
(561) New Jersey HCS (East Orange)	(561) East Orange VA Medical Center	439	14	5		8	14	38	360

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<b>(561) New Jersey HCS (East Orange)</b>	(561A4) Lyons VA Medical Center	244			2		10	25	207
<b>(561) New Jersey HCS (East Orange)</b>	(561GD) Hackensack VA Clinic	3							3
<b>(561) New Jersey HCS (East Orange)</b>	(561GE) Jersey City VA Clinic	1							1
<b>(561) New Jersey HCS (East Orange)</b>	(561GH) Morristown VA Clinic	1							1
<b>(562) Erie, PA</b>	(562) Erie VA Medical Center	7	2				1		4
<b>(564) Fayetteville, AR</b>	(564) Fayetteville VA Medical Center	9	3					2	4
<b>(565) Fayetteville, NC</b>	(565) Fayetteville VA Medical Center	76	1			1	5		69
<b>(565) Fayetteville, NC</b>	(565GC) Wilmington VA Clinic	1							1
<b>(565) Fayetteville, NC</b>	(565GD) Hamlet VA Clinic	1							1
<b>(565) Fayetteville, NC</b>	(565GE) Robeson County VA Clinic	3							3
<b>(565) Fayetteville, NC</b>	(565GL) Cumberland County VA Clinic	6							6
<b>(568) Black Hills HCS (Fort Meade SD) (CACHE 5.0)</b>	(568) Fort Meade VA Medical Center	4	3						1
<b>(570) Central California HCS (Fresno CA)</b>	(570) Fresno VA Medical Center	24	3	1		2			18
<b>(573) N. Florida/S. Georgia HCS (Gainesville FL)</b>	(573) Malcom Randall Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	32	3			2	1		26
<b>(573) N. Florida/S. Georgia HCS (Gainesville FL)</b>	(573A4) Lake City VA Medical Center	11	2						9
<b>(575) Grand Junction, CO</b>	(575) Grand Junction VA Medical Center	5					2		3
<b>(578) Hines, IL</b>	(578) Edward Hines Junior Hospital	167	4			7	1	15	140

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(580) Houston, TX	(580) Michael E. DeBakey Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	141	10	1		2	3	6	119
(580) Houston, TX	(580GG) Richmond VA Clinic	1	1						
(581) Huntington, WV	(581) Hershel "Woody" Williams VA Medical Center	10	1					1	8
(583) Indianapolis, IN	(583) Richard L. Roudebush Veterans' Administration Medical Center	274	15	3		7	13	23	213
(583) Indianapolis, IN	(583GD) Indianapolis West VA Clinic	1							1
(585) Iron Mountain, MI	(585) Oscar G. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility	2							2
(586) Jackson, MS	(586) G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	99	20			4	5	3	67
(589) VA Heartland West (Kansas City MO)	(589) Kansas City VA Medical Center	76	8			1	4	1	62
(589) VA Heartland West (Kansas City MO)	(589A4) Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital	11	3	3		1		1	3
(589) VA Heartland West (Kansas City MO)	(589A5) Colmery-O'Neil Veterans' Administration Medical Center	10	2						8
(589) VA Heartland West (Kansas City MO)	(589A6) Dwight D. Eisenhower Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	11		1					10
(589) VA Heartland West (Kansas City MO)	(589A7) Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center	9						1	8

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(589) VA Heartland West (Kansas City MO)	(589GB) Belton VA Clinic	2							2
(589) VA Heartland West (Kansas City MO)	(589GW) Salina VA Clinic	1							1
(589) VA Heartland West (Kansas City MO)	(589JC) Shawnee VA Clinic	1							1
(589) VA Heartland West (Kansas City MO)	(589JF) Honor VA Clinic	3							3
(590) Hampton, VA		2							2
(590) Hampton, VA	(590) Hampton VA Medical Center	58	4	3		2	2	2	45
(593) Southern Nevada HCS (Las Vegas NV)	(593) North Las Vegas VA Medical Center	42	3	3			1		35
(593) Southern Nevada HCS (Las Vegas NV)	(593GD) Northwest Las Vegas VA Clinic	4	1						3
(593) Southern Nevada HCS (Las Vegas NV)	(593GE) Southeast Las Vegas VA Clinic	2							2
(593) Southern Nevada HCS (Las Vegas NV)	(593GG) Northeast Las Vegas VA Clinic	12							12
(593) Southern Nevada HCS (Las Vegas NV)	(593GH) Master Chief Petty Officer Jesse Dean VA Clinic	1							1
(595) Lebanon, PA	(595) Lebanon VA Medical Center	112	11				11	3	87
(595) Lebanon, PA	(595GC) Lancaster County VA Clinic	1							1
(596) Lexington, KY	(596A4) Troy Bowling Campus	9	1	2					6
(596) Lexington, KY	(596GB) Morehead VA Clinic	1							1
(598) Central Arkansas HCS (Little Rock AR)	(598) John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans' Hospital	41		2		1	1	4	33
(598) Central Arkansas HCS (Little Rock AR)	(598A0) Eugene J. Towbin Healthcare Center	2	1						1
(600) Long Beach HCS (Long Beach CA)		1							1

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(600) Long Beach HCS (Long Beach CA)	(600) Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center	103	12			3	2	2	84
(603) Louisville, KY	(603) Robley Rex Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	71	4	2			1	6	58
(603) Louisville, KY	(603GB) New Albany VA Clinic	2							2
(603) Louisville, KY	(603GC) Shively VA Clinic	1							1
(603) Louisville, KY	(603GD) Stonybrook VA Clinic	1							1
(603) Louisville, KY	(603GE) Newburg VA Clinic	4							4
(605) Loma Linda, CA	(605) Jerry L. Pettis Memorial Veterans' Hospital	60	17	1	1	1		1	39
(605) Loma Linda, CA	(605BZ) Loma Linda VA Clinic	13							13
(605) Loma Linda, CA	(605GD) Corona VA Clinic	1							1
(607) Madison, WI	(607) William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans' Hospital	25	4	2		1		3	15
(607) Madison, WI	(607HA) Rockford VA Clinic	1	1						
(608) Manchester, NH	(608) Manchester VA Medical Center	24	1				4		19
(610) Northern Indiana HCS (Marion, IN)	(610) Marion VA Medical Center	32	5						27
(610) Northern Indiana HCS (Marion, IN)	(610A4) Fort Wayne VA Medical Center	18	1	1		2		4	10
(610) Northern Indiana HCS (Marion, IN)	(610GC) Goshen VA Clinic	1							1
(612) Northern California HCS (Martinez CA)	(612) Martinez VA Community Living Center	8	1						7
(612) Northern California HCS (Martinez CA)	(612A4) Sacramento VA Medical Center	14						3	11
(612) Northern California HCS (Martinez CA)	(612GF) Martinez VA Medical Center	10	3						7
(612) Northern California HCS (Martinez CA)	(612GH) McClellan VA Clinic	3							3



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(612) Northern California HCS (Martinez CA)	(640) Palo Alto VA Medical Center	1							1
(613) Martinsburg, WV	(613) Martinsburg VA Medical Center	68	10	1		3	4	3	47
(613) Martinsburg, WV	(613GC) Stephens City VA Clinic	1				1			
(614) Memphis, TN	(614) Memphis VA Medical Center	44	2	1				5	36
(618) Minneapolis, MN (CACHE 5.0)	(618) Minneapolis VA Medical Center	163	22			6	19	12	104
(618) Minneapolis, MN (CACHE 5.0)	(618GI) Northwest Metro VA Clinic	1							1
(619) Central Alabama HCS (Montgomery AL)	(619) Central Alabama VA Medical Center-Montgomery	50	12			1		1	36
(619) Central Alabama HCS (Montgomery AL)	(619A4) Central Alabama VA Medical Center-Tuskegee	3							3
(619) Central Alabama HCS (Montgomery AL)	(619GF) Central Alabama Montgomery VA Clinic	1							1
(619) Central Alabama HCS (Montgomery AL)	(619QA) Dothan 2 VA Clinic	1							1
(620) Hudson Valley HCS (Castle Point, Montrose)		3							3
(620) Hudson Valley HCS (Castle Point, Montrose)	(620) Franklin Delano Roosevelt Hospital	122	3				1	7	111
(620) Hudson Valley HCS (Castle Point, Montrose)	(620A4) Castle Point VA Medical Center	56					2	1	53
(621) Mountain Home, TN	(621) James H. Quillen Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	13							13
(621) Mountain Home, TN	(621BY) William C. Tallent Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic	2							2

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(621) Mountain Home, TN	(621GI) Dannie A. Carr Veterans Outpatient Clinic	2							2
(621) Mountain Home, TN	(621GJ) Bristol VA Clinic	2							2
(623) Muskogee, OK	(623) Jack C. Montgomery Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	19					3	2	14
(623) Muskogee, OK	(623BY) Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic	9	2						7
(623) Muskogee, OK	(623GA) McAlester VA Clinic	3							3
(623) Muskogee, OK	(623GB) Vinita VA Clinic	2							2
(626) Tennessee Valley HCS (Nashville TN)	(626) Nashville VA Medical Center	50	1	2		1		2	44
(626) Tennessee Valley HCS (Nashville TN)	(626A4) Alvin C. York Veterans' Administration Medical Center	15	3			2		1	9
(629) New Orleans, LA	(629) New Orleans VA Medical Center	495	4	2			7	35	447
(629) New Orleans, LA	(629BY) Baton Rouge VA Clinic	26					3		23
(629) New Orleans, LA	(629GA) Houma VA Clinic	1							1
(629) New Orleans, LA	(629GB) Hammond VA Clinic	6							6
(629) New Orleans, LA	(629GC) Slidell VA Clinic	1	1						
(629) New Orleans, LA	(629GD) St. John VA Clinic	1							1
(629) New Orleans, LA	(629QA) Baton Rouge South VA Clinic	1							1
(630) New York HHS (Brooklyn)		80				5	2	5	68
(630) New York HHS (Brooklyn)	(526) James J. Peters Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	1							1
(630) New York HHS (Brooklyn)	(561) East Orange VA Medical Center	1							1

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(630) New York HHS (Brooklyn)	(630) Manhattan VA Medical Center	285	17	1		5	6	32	224
(630) New York HHS (Brooklyn)	(630A4) Brooklyn VA Medical Center	196	2	1		3	1	36	153
(630) New York HHS (Brooklyn)	(630A5) St. Albans VA Medical Center	8							8
(630) New York HHS (Brooklyn)	(675) Orlando VA Medical Center	1							1
(631) Northampton, MA	(631) Edward P. Boland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	48	2				4		42
(631) Northampton, MA	(631BY) Springfield VA Clinic	8	1				1		6
(631) Northampton, MA	(631GE) Worcester VA Clinic	7	1						6
(632) Northport, NY	(632) Northport VA Medical Center	229	4			3	10	20	192
(632) Northport, NY	(632HD) Patchogue VA Clinic	1							1
(635) Oklahoma City, OK	(635) Oklahoma City VA Medical Center	37	1	1		1	2	3	29
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636) Omaha VA Medical Center	122	22			4	10	7	79
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636A4) Grand Island VA Medical Center	12				1	1		10
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636A5) Lincoln VA Clinic	4	1						3
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636A6) Des Moines VA Medical Center	44	6	1		2		4	31
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636A8) Iowa City VA Medical Center	19	1	2				2	14
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636GD) Marshalltown VA Clinic	2							2
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636GF) Quad Cities VA Clinic	7	2						5

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(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636GI) Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic	2							2
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636GJ) Dubuque VA Clinic	1							1
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636GK) Fort Dodge VA Clinic	1	1						
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636GS) Ottumwa VA Clinic	1							1
(636) Central Plains HCS (Omaha NE)	(636GT) Sterling VA Clinic	1							1
(637) Asheville, NC	(637) Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	31		2		3	4	4	18
(637) Asheville, NC	(637GB) Rutherford County VA Clinic	1							1
(640) Palo Alto HCS (Palo Alto CA)		2							2
(640) Palo Alto HCS (Palo Alto CA)	(640) Palo Alto VA Medical Center	37	1			2	3	4	27
(640) Palo Alto HCS (Palo Alto CA)	(640A4) Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Livermore	2							2
(640) Palo Alto HCS (Palo Alto CA)	(640GC) Fremont VA Clinic	1							1
(640) Palo Alto HCS (Palo Alto CA)	(640HA) Stockton VA Clinic	1							1
(640) Palo Alto HCS (Palo Alto CA)	(640HB) Modesto VA Clinic	2	1						1
(642) Philadelphia, PA	(642) Corporal Michael J. Crescenzo Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	439	33			4	15	15	372

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(644) Phoenix, AZ	(644) Carl T. Hayden Veterans' Administration Medical Center	96	22	2		5	5	4	58
(644) Phoenix, AZ	(644BY) Southeast VA Clinic	1							1
(644) Phoenix, AZ	(644GA) Northwest VA Clinic	1							1
(644) Phoenix, AZ	(644GH) Phoenix Midtown VA Clinic	1							1
(644) Phoenix, AZ	(644QA) Phoenix VA Clinic	2	2						
(646) Pittsburgh HCS (Pittsburgh PA)		1							1
(646) Pittsburgh HCS (Pittsburgh PA)	(646) Pittsburgh VA Medical Center-University Drive	53	3	2			1	2	45
(646) Pittsburgh HCS (Pittsburgh PA)	(646A4) H. John Heinz III Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	1							1
(648) Portland, OR (CACHE 5.0)	(648) Portland VA Medical Center	29	3	2			1	3	20
(648) Portland, OR (CACHE 5.0)	(648A4) Portland VA Medical Center-Vancouver	1							1
(649) Northern Arizona HCS (Prescott AZ)	(649) Bob Stump Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	15	3						12
(650) Providence, RI	(650) Providence VA Medical Center	92	1	1			13	3	74
(652) Richmond, VA	(652) Hunter Holmes McGuire Hospital	116	24	3			4	5	80
(653) Roseburg HCS (Roseburg OR)	(653) Roseburg VA Medical Center	2							2
(654) Sierra Nevada HCS (Reno NV)	(654) Ioannis A. Lougaris Veterans' Administration Medical Center	23	1	5				3	14
(654) Sierra Nevada HCS (Reno NV)	(654GF) North Reno VA Clinic	1							1



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(655) Saginaw, MI	(655) Aleda E. Lutz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	26					1		25
(656) St. Cloud, MN (CACHE 5.0)	(656) St. Cloud VA Medical Center	32	8				1		23
(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)	(657) John Cochran Veterans Hospital	134	15	3	1	4	7	8	96
(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)	(657A0) St. Louis VA Medical Center-Jefferson Barracks	9							9
(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)	(657A4) John J. Pershing Veterans' Administration Medical Center	5	1						4
(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)	(657A5) Marion VA Medical Center	1							1
(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)	(657GA) St. Clair County VA Clinic	3							3
(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)	(657GB) St. Louis County VA Clinic	2					1		1
(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)	(657GD) St. Charles County VA Clinic	1	1						
(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)	(657GX) Washington Avenue VA Clinic	1							1
(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)	(657GY) Manchester Avenue VA Clinic	3							3
(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)	(657QA) Olive Street VA Clinic	7	1						6
(657) VA Heartland East (Saint Louis MO)	(657QB) Washington Boulevard VA Clinic	1							1
(658) Salem, VA	(658) Salem VA Medical Center	12	2	2					8
(659) Salisbury, NC	(659) W.G. (Bill) Hefner Salisbury Department of	88	4	1			12	3	68

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	Veterans Affairs Medical Center								
(659) Salisbury, NC	(659BY) Kernersville VA Clinic	7	3						4
(659) Salisbury, NC	(659BZ) South Charlotte VA Clinic	3	2						1
(659) Salisbury, NC	(659GA) North Charlotte VA Clinic	1							1
(660) Salt Lake City HCS (Salt Lake City UT)	(660) George E. Wahlen Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	66	27	2		4	1		32
(662) San Francisco, CA	(662) San Francisco VA Medical Center	24	1	1		1		3	18
(662) San Francisco, CA	(662GA) Santa Rosa VA Clinic	1							1
(662) San Francisco, CA	(662GF) San Francisco VA Clinic	2							2
(663) Puget Sound HCS (Seattle WA) (CACHE 5.0)	(663) Seattle VA Medical Center	92	7	1		4	7	1	72
(663) Puget Sound HCS (Seattle WA) (CACHE 5.0)	(663A4) American Lake VA Medical Center	10							10
(663) Puget Sound HCS (Seattle WA) (CACHE 5.0)	(663GA) Bellevue VA Clinic	1							1
(663) Puget Sound HCS (Seattle WA) (CACHE 5.0)	(663GC) Mount Vernon VA Clinic	1							1
(664) San Diego HCS (San Diego CA)	(664) San Diego VA Medical Center	74	12	2		3	1		56
(664) San Diego HCS (San Diego CA)	(664BY) Mission Valley VA Clinic	7							7
(664) San Diego HCS (San Diego CA)	(664GB) Oceanside VA Clinic	3	1						2
(664) San Diego HCS (San Diego CA)	(664GC) Chula Vista VA Clinic	4	1						3
(666) Sheridan, WY	(666) Sheridan VA Medical Center	1							1

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(667) Shreveport, LA	(667) Overton Brooks Veterans' Administration Medical Center	91	2	3		1	1	9	75
(667) Shreveport, LA	(667GB) Monroe VA Clinic	4							4
(668) Spokane, WA	(668) Mann-Grandstaff Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center	51	1	1		5	1	4	39
(671) South Texas HCS (San Antonio TX)	(671) Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans' Hospital	69	3	3		3		7	53
(672) San Juan, PR	(672) San Juan VA Medical Center	52	1						51
(673) Tampa, FL	(673) James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital	27	1			6		4	16
(673) Tampa, FL	(673BV) Tampa VA Domiciliary	1							1
(673) Tampa, FL	(673BZ) New Port Richey VA Clinic	1							1
(674) Central Texas HCS (Temple TX)	(674) Olin E. Teague Veterans' Center	32	2	3	1		2		24
(674) Central Texas HCS (Temple TX)	(674BY) Austin VA Clinic	6	1						5
(675) Orlando, FL	(573BY) Jacksonville 1 VA Clinic	1							1
(675) Orlando, FL	(675) Orlando VA Medical Center	72	12	1		1	1	1	56
(675) Orlando, FL	(675GA) Viera VA Clinic	12	2						10
(675) Orlando, FL	(675GB) William V. Chappell, Jr. Veterans' Outpatient Clinic	1	1						
(675) Orlando, FL	(675GD) Deltona VA Clinic	2							2
(675) Orlando, FL	(675GG) Lake Baldwin VA Clinic	4	1						3
(676) Tomah, WI	(676) Tomah VA Medical Center	3							3

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(676) Tomah, WI	(676GD) Wisconsin Rapids VA Clinic	1							1
(678) Southern Arizona HCS (Tucson AZ)	(678) Tucson VA Medical Center	50	11			5	1	6	27
(679) Tuscaloosa, AL		1							1
(679) Tuscaloosa, AL	(679) Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center	23	6		5				12
(679) Tuscaloosa, AL	(679GA) Selma VA Clinic	1							1
(687) Walla Walla, WA	(687) Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center	13	2				1		10
(688) Washington DC	(688) Washington VA Medical Center	403	48	3		13	20	21	298
(688) Washington DC	(688GD) Charlotte Hall VA Clinic	1	1						
(689) Connecticut HCS (Westhaven)	(689) West Haven VA Medical Center	195	7	2		7	12	6	161
(689) Connecticut HCS (Westhaven)	(689A4) Newington VA Clinic	87	3				3		81
(689) Connecticut HCS (Westhaven)	(689GA) Waterbury VA Clinic	3							3
(689) Connecticut HCS (Westhaven)	(689GB) Stamford VA Clinic	1							1
(689) Connecticut HCS (Westhaven)	(689GE) Danbury VA Clinic	6	1						5
(689) Connecticut HCS (Westhaven)	(689HC) John J. McGuirk Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic	5							5
(689) Connecticut HCS (Westhaven)	(689QA) Errera VA Clinic	2							2
(691) Greater Los Angeles HCS (Los Angeles CA)		38						1	37
(691) Greater Los Angeles HCS (Los Angeles CA)	(691) West Los Angeles VA Medical Center	66	6	8		3	1	6	42

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<b>(691) Greater Los Angeles HCS (Los Angeles CA)</b>	(691A4) Sepulveda VA Medical Center	4	1						3
<b>(691) Greater Los Angeles HCS (Los Angeles CA)</b>	(691GK) San Luis Obispo VA Clinic	1							1
<b>(693) Wilkes-Barre, PA</b>	(693) Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center	88	5	4		3	10	1	65
<b>(693) Wilkes-Barre, PA</b>	(693B4) Allentown VA Clinic	3	2						1
<b>(693) Wilkes-Barre, PA</b>	(693GG) Northampton County VA Clinic	1							1
<b>(695) Milwaukee, WI</b>	(695) Clement J. Zablocki Veterans' Administration Medical Center	97	6	6				6	79
<b>(740) Texas Valley Coastal Bend HCS (Harlingen TX)</b>	(740) Harlingen VA Clinic	9					2		7
<b>(740) Texas Valley Coastal Bend HCS (Harlingen TX)</b>	(740GD) Laredo VA Clinic	1							1
<b>(756) El Paso, TX</b>	(756) El Paso VA Clinic	44					2		42
<b>(757) Columbus, OH</b>	(757) Chalmers P. Wylie Veterans Outpatient Clinic	42	3				3		36